



# The Scoop

The news that matters from the  
Smith Street Unit

[www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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## From the desk of Dale-Myree

Over the next 5 newsletters the staff at the smith Street Unit will be taking over the introduction to tell you a little about themselves. I am delighted to introduce Danna Sheedy and personally thank her for the insightful wisdom and professional support she has shown over the past year.



Danna Sheedy

I have been working at The Smith St Unit for 3 1/2 years. I am the organiser of our PD/Health/PE and Sport each week. I studied at Wollongong University from 1995-1998. I have a Bachelor of Teaching and a Bachelor of Education. Before the Smith St Unit, I worked in the Campbelltown/Liverpool area for 10 years. I will be on maternity leave all of 2016, but will be returning in 2017.



### Employers Appreciation Day

On Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup>,  
Petrina and Cyndy represented  
the Smith Street Unit and

attended the Dragons' Community annual Appreciation Day for teachers and employers. They enjoyed watching the Dragons beat the Panthers 19 - 12. The Highlight of the night was watching Jay score a try!!!

Jay is a great asset for the unit and he plays well too!!!



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Jeanine Dunkley, Head Teacher Karabar, visited our unit on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and assisted Dryden, Jack and James to choose their subjects for Year 11. The Smith Street Unit thanks Jeanine for her continual support of the students and staff. Jack and Dryden surprised us by choosing to study German. Viel Glück!







The Gonski funding is starting to improve teaching and learning in our schools.

Schools are able to choose the things that work best for their students such as:

- ❖ Cutting class sizes
- ❖ Employing additional specialist teachers in areas such as literacy and numeracy
- ❖ Providing greater support for students with additional learning needs or a disability
- ❖ Employing trained professionals such as speech pathologists or counsellors
- ❖ Improving the training and mentoring of teachers.



## Art at SSU

The Art Space continues to be the first impression for visitors to the Smith Street Unit, with the next exhibition of metal animals from Wild Republic's Nuts and Bolts nearing completion. Look out for an elephant, T-Rex, Giraffe, Crocodile, Spider, Scorpion, Dolphin and a great white Shark.



## News from the staff room

We sadly announce that Catherine Jack has accepted a position in a different school and will not be returning to the Smith Street Unit. We wish Catherine all the best in her new job.





# United for Human Rights



Chahla and Danna are teaching a unit of work around Human Rights and their violations to the senior students. The topics include "Human Rights Articles, Modern Day Slavery, Human trafficking in the products we buy, Fair Trade, Children's rights, Refugees issues, Human rights at school, Heroes of human rights and Human trafficking".

## The facts about Human Rights abuse

**Gang violence**—100 percent of cities with populations greater than or equal to 250,000 reported gang activity.

**Child abuse**—40 million children below the age of 15 suffer from abuse and neglect. (United Nations Children's Fund, 2008)

**Child labour**—246 million children, one in every six children aged 5 to 17, are involved in child labour.

**Human trafficking**—It is estimated that there are 27 million people in the world today who are enslaved.

**Child soldiers**—UNICEF estimates that more than 300,000 children under 18 are currently being exploited in over thirty armed conflicts worldwide.

*(Facts from Youthforhumanrights)*

**Youth for Human Rights International maintains that children who do not know their rights are vulnerable and easy prey for ill-intended individuals.**

The students are enthusiastically engaging and are eager to explore these topics. Jack claimed that the DVD (created by Youth for Human Rights) explained the rights in a way that made it easier for students to understand them. Jack is studying Digital Animation at TAFE and he was impressed not just by the content but also by the quality of the DVD. ***We value our students' feedback!***

***You can visit the website United for Human Rights on [youthforhumanrights.org](http://youthforhumanrights.org)***

## FROM SSU KITCHEN



The students are still enjoying the cooking experiences at SSU. The junior students cooked chicken burgers and chocolate crackles while the senior students cooked curries, muffins and beef pasties. This term, the students have demonstrated great skills in hygiene practices before and after the lessons... The kitchen is almost perfectly cleaned...

***Assembly Highlights - Congratulations!!!***



David Hermann received the bronze award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.

Dryden Jack received the bronze award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.



Blake Dugan received the bronze award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.



Jack Mitchell received the bronze award for outstanding achievement in Distance Education.



# TVET 2016

TAFE delivered vocational education and training (TVET) courses can help the students to launch their career. TVET allows them to:

- Gain practical, work-related skills to enhance their future employment opportunities
- Complete units that count towards your Higher School Certificate (HSC)
- Start or complete a nationally recognised TAFE NSW qualification while still at school.



**TAFE** NSW

When they finish the TVET course, the students will receive a nationally accredited Certificate qualification or a Statement of Attainment.

During week 7, **Merryl Bennett** (Transition Support Teacher) and **Wendy Hoschke** (Teacher, Equity Services - Disabilities Teachers/Consult) visited the unit and interviewed Shane, David, Dryden, Jack and Dylan. These students expressed that they are interested in studying a TVET course.

*Good Luck!*

## Gardening at SSU

According to Dryden, Petrina cooks yummy burgers and hides lots of goodness in them. Petrina has been using the greens in our garden in most dishes. She adds silverbeet, herbs, carrots, coriander, parsley and broccoli to chicken fried rice and beef patties. SSU thanks Cyndy for maintaining our vegetable garden and Petrina for putting lots of love and goodness in the canteen food.



## Transition Workshop

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, Chahla, Danna, Dylan and Jack attended a transitional workshop and information session offered by Karabar Distance Education Centre. The sessions were open to Years 9 -12 and incorporated career planning, resume writing, educational pathways and transitional options. Additionally, a Year 10 BOSTES subject information and selection consultation was provided on the day for Year 10 students.



*The Smith Street unit is a service of the New South Wales Department of Education providing specialised support in a unique environment. Students are provided with individualised learning programs to meet the educational needs.*

*The unit has served the students of the Illawarra for over a quarter of a century with the key mission providing a nurturing environment where students can grow into mature young men and women. It is always exciting to see graduates come back to share their success stories.*

## The Smith Street Unit

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