# Wagga Wagga High School Year 10 Enrichment Program

Interview with Anne Fellows



**Figure 1 Anne Fellows, careers adviser**

**How long have you been working as a careers adviser?**   
Twenty years

**What are the most rewarding experiences in our job role?**   
The variety and scope of the role and working with a variety of students to achieve their personal career goals.

**If you can describe your role in a word or sentence, how would you describe it?**   
Always busy but always different which is why it is so rewarding.

**What do you enjoy most about your career position?**  
Helping a range of students across all levels and building networks with employers and industry

**Describe your school’s program/program?**WWHS Year 10 Enrichment Program – “YOU YOUR SCHOOL AND YOUR COMMUNITY”.This Year 10 program started a few years ago as a one off program for that year to finish stage 5 productively after assessments. Now the program has been embedded into the school culture and has been going for many years. Hopefully it will continue for many more.

The Year 10 Enrichment Program is a valuable week long program culminating the completion of junior years and recognising the transition into senior school. It contains three main components; YOU, YOUR SCHOOL & YOUR COMMUNITY.

YOU: Students participate in a range of activities in each of these areas according to personal choice. Example – yoga, fishing, movies, T P Bowling, Hair and Beauty etc

YOUR SCHOOL: This aspect focuses on students giving back to their school. Example – stocktake, office work, reading with younger students, sports activities with EALD, Farm work, Canteen etc

COMMUNITY: This is a day where students give back to the wider community of Wagga and surrounds. Examples: Workplace learning, ATSI art works, hampers for families in need, blankets for homeless, backyard blitz etc

The week-long program promotes opportunities for students to build leadership skills, set goals, gain information about personal safety and strategies to effectively transition to the senior school. It will also foster the opportunity to build strong relationships with their teachers, peers and the community alike. This year there will be a focus on mental health, inclusion, and checking in on your peers.

**Milestone for the project/program/program? What obstacles were encountered?   
Milestone** Disengaged students reengaging – students reconnecting with their school, staff and peers to move forward with the education demands of senior studies. Through various activities students connect via activities that are offered throughout the week.

**Obstacles** Finances, time, intensity of the program, bringing together whole school for the program, backing up year after year to make it new and exciting , working with 150 + Year 10 students.

These obstacles were overcome through writing grant submissions for funds, cost cutting as much as possible, gaining sponsorship and donations, being relieved from classes to work on program from Principal, hard work and time, listening to the students wants and collecting ideas over the year.

**Was there a milestone you hoped to achieve but did not reach?**  
As close as possible to 100% attendance and students not missing out on activities due to low socio economics and disadvantage.

**Best idea the transition team has come up with during the project/program? Why was it such a good idea?**   
Getting the whole school involved via sports house groups and the leadership team to contribute to hampers via donations and student lead activities and assistance has helped alleviate pressures off staff. Having most staff involved in one way or another over the week. Using X-WWHS students as guest speakers and industry representatives of the program.

**What has been the most successful outcome so far from the project/program?**  
Re-engagement and connectivity of all Year 10 to staff and community groups , building relationships within school and local community, giving back to others, addressing physical and mental health, developing resilience and overcoming adversity.

**How has the rest of the staff responded to the project/program?**   
Did they share new ideas? The YOU SESSIONS in the program are driven by staff ideas and coordinated and run by staff. Staff also give feedback each year to make the program grow and improve.