

Showcase 2006

*In many rural areas, the local school is the hub of the community and the site for many community activities. This is particularly true at Goondiwindi State High School where the environment is characterised by creative partnerships with local community organisations, businesses and industries. These have resulted in innovative learning environments and experiences for our students. Our school's successful strategic vision is '**School at the Centre of our Rural Community.**' Goondiwindi State High School has partnered with our community to ensure that the value of education and its investment in young people is **integral to the ongoing sustainability of rural and regional towns.***

A number of high quality, collaboratively developed initiatives occur at Goondiwindi State High School; each resulting in quality student outcomes. The following examples illustrate the calibre of our projects:

1. "Overcoming Access And Equity Issues For Students In Our Rural Community"
2. "Returning Skilled People To The Bush"
3. "Cottoning Onto Careers"
4. "Expanded Options And Flexibility For Young People In Our Rural Community"
5. "Flexible And Responsive Training Options In Our Rural Community"

"Overcoming Access And Equity Issues For Students In Our Rural Community"

Our school has partnered with local government and community organisations to provide **much-needed facilities** that benefit both the students of Goondiwindi State High School and also the community at large. For example:

1. Our school is a member of a local consortium that has successfully **constructed an indoor sports complex** on land formerly owned by Goondiwindi State High School. Officially opened in March 2006, this **\$2.3m facility** has guarantees from both local government and Education Queensland for recurrent funding over the next 10 years. The Centre has met with overwhelming community support, with many new sports being introduced to the town this year. It has also been a boon for high school physical education classes and intra-school sporting activities. Schools (primary and high) have exclusive use of the Centre and its facilities between 9am and 3pm daily, including:
 - A fully-equipped gymnasium
 - 2 full-size courts, with markings for basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton and futsal
 - Electronic scoring equipment
 - A Youth 'Drop-In' Centre
2. A community based organisation, Goondiwindi SILO (Schools Industry Links Outreach Inc) has, for many years, been in partnership with the school to provide advice and progress local employment and training initiatives. A significant development has been the **construction of a community owned educational centre** – Goondiwindi Training and Technology [GTT], with specialist facilities such as:
 - Conference Room (capacity for 100 people)
 - 2 Seminar Rooms
 - 2 Meeting Rooms
 - 2 Computer Rooms
 - Machinery/Equipment Workshop

Opened in November 2003, this **\$1.2m rural training centre** has created a solution to the issue of no access to any kind of a local training facility. The addition of the GTT to the high school campus has contributed to a **local learning precinct**. It has established itself as a **one-stop shop for all post compulsory schooling, training and employment opportunities**. As such, it offers students and members of the community relevant training and employment pathways. The success of GTT in quickly establishing itself as the **hub of training** in Goondiwindi and district is clearly evident. For example, in 2005 it:

- ✓ supervised 1122 enrolments in accredited courses (eg Cert IV Workplace Assessor & Training, Cert II Hospitality Operations, OH&S, Responsible Service of Alcohol, and Cert I Information Technology)
- ✓ organised 308 enrolments in non-accredited training courses (eg Work working, Investment Training, Rural Women in Business, and Monsanto Program Training)
- ✓ registered a further 1100 prospective clients on their database, and endeavoured to connect them to training opportunities
- ✓ offered a diverse range of training packages, provided by Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, New England Institute of TAFE and other national RTO's from both the public and private sectors
- ✓ coordinated Learning Network Queensland's activities in the local area
- ✓ successfully tendered to deliver a wide range of government-funded initiatives, such as Training in the Communities, and Career and Transition Services
- ✓ managed 110 meetings, workshops and conferences in its state-of-the-art premises

3. The local shire council provides Goondiwindi State High School with funding to lease a **school bus**. The bus is used to transport students to both co- and extra-curricular activities, including sporting, cultural and academic pursuits. At other times the bus is available for community use. Since 2003 this successful partnership has seen Waggamba Shire Council commit \$40,000 towards the lease of the bus, with the High School's P&C Association contributing \$20,000.

In summary, the following table shows wider community support for the school that has ensured **effective use of financial resources** for the benefit of all.

<i>Asset</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Value</i>
Goondiwindi Indoor Sports Centre	<i>Waggamba Shire Council, Goondiwindi Town Council, Qld Department of Sport and Recreation, local sporting organisations, Education Queensland, Queensland Police Citizens Youth Club</i>	\$2.3m
Goondiwindi Training & Technology Centre	<i>Waggamba Shire Council, Goondiwindi Town Council, Qld Department of Employment and Training, ANTA, local industry, Education Queensland</i>	\$1.2m
GSHS Bus	<i>Waggamba Shire Council, Goondiwindi SHS P&C Association</i>	\$60,000

"Returning Skilled People To The Bush"

It is a well-accepted fact that young people growing up in rural communities have a greater likelihood of settling in rural communities for their working lives. These people make a significant contribution to their communities. Goondiwindi State High School, in conjunction with its key stakeholders, encourages **skilled and highly qualified graduates** to seek employment in rural communities. In partnership with the cotton industry, local services groups, and councils, our school offers a unique opportunity for graduates of Goondiwindi State High School - a Bursary for tertiary-bound students.

The Bursary provides financial support for the successful recipient while they undertake tertiary study. The support is structured to provide optimum effectiveness over the first three years of a student's tertiary course. In return, there is an undertaking that the recipient **returns to a rural community** for a minimum of two years immediately upon graduation.

A community committee conducts the annual merit selection process to choose a recipient. This committee also works during the year to continue raising funds for the Bursary of which the annual Charity Golf Day is a major feature. Since its inception, the Bursary has been awarded as follows:

<i>Year Awarded</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Tertiary course being studied by Bursary winner</i>
<i>2003</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>Bachelor of Special Education, Griffith University</i>
<i>2004</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>Bachelor of Science, USQ</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, USQ</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>Bachelor of Engineering, USQ</i>

This complements the education at Goondiwindi State High School and demonstrates the commitment of local employers and industry to **retaining and attracting students to rural areas**.

"Cottoning Onto Careers"

Goondiwindi State High School has established an **ongoing partnership with the cotton industry** through the successful *Pushing the Boundaries – Cottoning onto Careers* program [PTB]. This program was initiated by the local MacIntyre Valley Cotton Growers Association in 2000 in response to chronic skill shortages within the cotton industry. PTB provides students with an increased awareness of employment opportunities in the rural sector by following the cotton trail from paddock to wharf.

Whilst cotton is the industry-specific focus of this project, participation in the program is an enormous benefit to students who have a genuine interest in agriculture in general, including those who seek to undertake tertiary studies in this area. Outcomes of this innovative program include:

- ✓ *Over 100 students have participate in the program, aspects of which has included industry and farm visits, specialist training, guest speakers, and learning extension programs including a Virtual Cotton Farm*
- ✓ *Significant increases in fulltime employment opportunities in the rural sector for young people exiting school*
- ✓ *Increased number of school-based traineeships in agriculture*
- ✓ *Increased awareness for tertiary bound students of career opportunities in the rural sector*
- ✓ *Introduction of an annual information and social gathering to familiarise school staff with the cotton industry at a local level*
- ✓ *Local employers have a wider pool of informed young people for potential workers*
- ✓ *Entrenched linkages between education, young people and industry to ensure a sustainable program*

In recognition of the multiple benefits to both students and industry, the program has expanded in recent years to include students from the Central Highlands and Inglewood (Queensland), and Mungindi (NSW). The program's **transferability** is also evident – it has been adopted in other rural regions across Queensland and New South Wales as an **example of best practice** of how schools can link with local primary producers to provide quality student outcomes.

"Expanded Options And Flexibility For Young People In Our Rural Community"

The *School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships* [SATs] program is a key feature of the senior school curriculum at Goondiwindi State High School. It has, since its inception in 1999, provided students with opportunities to combine their schooling with paid work and nationally recognised training.

On completion of Year 12, successful trainees achieve a Senior Certificate, a Certificate II in a nationally accredited course (or Stage 1 of their apprenticeship) and extensive on-the-job training. **Flexible timetabling and delivery of curriculum** at GSHS also enables trainees to select the subjects necessary for tertiary entrance.

The complexity of building effective and sustainable partnerships with all the parties involved in the delivery of SATs is an enormous task for isolated rural schools. Through the highly successful SATs program, Goondiwindi State High School has provided significant learning outcomes for students including:

- ✓ *Over 200 students have been signed up as a SAT since the program commenced*
- ✓ *Over 150 local employers have participated in the program*
- ✓ *Since 1999 over 90% of graduate trainees have been offered fulltime apprenticeships or work as a result of their school based traineeships*
- ✓ *Students are able to undertake a traineeship in any field provided local employment is available - we currently offer traineeships over **seventeen different industry areas** (no mean feat for a small rural town)*
- ✓ *An increase in the number of students now receiving formal training opportunities across different areas from hairdressing to automotive, engineering, hospitality, construction and agriculture*

In addition, Goondiwindi State High School in conjunction with the DEST funded *Local Community Partnership*, offers a comprehensive *Workplacement Program* [SWL] which is based on strong linkages between the school, community and business sector. This partnership within the local community allows students to gain valuable on-the-job skills which contribute to their formalised learning as well as providing them with practical skills and on-the-job experience.

In recognition of the intrinsic value of employability skills in preparing students for post school life, all Year 10 and 11 students at Goondiwindi State High School are enrolled in Certificate I in Work Education and Certificate I in Work Readiness of which SWL is a key component. Increased participation in the program is illustrated by the **longitudinal data** in Appendix I (Table 1).

The SWL Program is extremely well supported by the local community, with over **300 employers** on the SWL database indicating their willingness to take students. Importantly, longitudinal data shows that in **excess of 90%** of students consistently achieve one or more vocational education and training certificates whilst enrolled at Goondiwindi State High School:

Destination 2010 Targets	School 2002	School 2003	School 2004	School 2005	Target 2008
<i>Percentage of students awarded a Senior Certificate who have also achieved one or more vocational education and training certificates at AQF Level 1 or higher (LE3.2)</i>	81.3	88.6	93.3	93.0	95
<i>Note:</i>	<i>State Result 2001: 30%;</i>		<i>State Result 2004: 35%;</i>		<i>State Target 2008: 43%</i>

Clearly, our school's vocational education program, including SATs and SWL, is **highly effective and valued** by both the school and the wider community. It has opened up a range of opportunities for all students in the school.

"Flexible And Responsive Training Options In Our Rural Community"

Goondiwindi State High School has taken the lead role in providing **learning and earning opportunities** for disengaged or at-risk young people through the *MacIntyre Cluster Youth Initiative* [MCYI]. This program covers the rural towns of Goondiwindi and Inglewood, and has resulted from the Department's senior phase of learning initiative *ETRF*. In partnership with Goondiwindi Training and Technology, we have created **flexible and alternative pathways** for young people, allowing them to maintain their connectedness to education while also gaining employability, life and enterprise skills as well as formal certification through access to nationally accredited courses.

Training courses accessed by this cohort since introduction of MCYI in 2005 include:

- *Certificate II in Automotive*
- *Certificate II in Business*
- *Senior First Aid and CPR*
- *Enterprise Education Program – Australian Business Week*
- *General Safety Induction Construction (Queensland Blue Card)*
- *Navigational Skills and Boat Licence*
- *Workplace Literacy*

Quality outcomes from these courses are evident as demonstrated in the **destination data** of participants from the 2005 automotive course in Appendix 1 (Table 2). Similar results were achieved in other courses offered.

We are building on these successes and are currently offering an alternative education program *MacIntyre Alternative Training and Education* [MATE] program for at-risk students. This flexible program has been specifically tailored to meet the needs of the local rural community where there are **identified skill shortages** and **real employment opportunities** in agriculture. MATE gives the young people the opportunity to gain accreditation and practical skills in agriculture by:

- undertaking Certificates I and II in Rural Operations
- participating in an intensive functional literacy and numeracy program
- gaining employability skills through an extensive work readiness program
- undertaking workplacement in agriculture

An equally pleasing aspect of this work is the realisation that the needs of disengaged young people were not adequately being addressed in our local community. As a direct result, a number of other government-funded programs are now being delivered. These include:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Funding Body</i>	<i>Target Group</i>
<i>"Get Set for Work"</i>	<i>DET</i>	<i>Assisting young people transition from school to further earning or learning</i>
<i>"Training in Communities"</i>	<i>DET</i>	<i>Offering access to IT training for young people</i>
<i>"Literacy and Numeracy"</i>	<i>DET</i>	<i>Assistance for adults and young people outside the education system</i>

Goondiwindi State High School has played a key role in engaging the community to enhance learning opportunities for all. It has, therefore, **built community capacity in the town.**

Conclusion

As demonstrated in this submission, the activities of Goondiwindi State High School place the school **at the centre of its rural community**. In addition, the attached supporting information shows high levels of support for the school and its programs. Demonstrated links to the systemic imperatives of Education Queensland are clearly evident, including:

Rural and Remote Education Framework for Action

- Extensive community involvement to facilitate sustainability
- Quality programs developed in partnership with the local community that are responsive to local and global needs
- Equitable and efficient resource arrangements
- Widespread cooperation and integration to improve student pathways

Destination 2010

- Significant links between schools and industry employers
- Increased community access to school facilities
- School as a hub of community activities
- High levels of vocational education qualifications
- High levels of satisfaction – parents and students
- Relevant and engaging curriculum
- Improved retention and achievement of students
- Distinctive approaches to improving learning outcomes

Education and Training Reforms for the Future

- Partnerships between schools and community organisations
- Increased earning or learning options for young people

*Successful progressive schools require sustainable and meaningful community links beyond the immediate supports of education systems. This is particularly true in rural and remote areas of Queensland where the provision of quality education requires **creative, flexible, and collaborative approaches** to educational services. Consequently, a continuing focus of Goondiwindi State High School has been engaging the community in partnering with the school to further enhance learning opportunities and student outcomes. This has resulted in significant inputs of **social, intellectual and financial resources** from the wider community.*

Improving Student Learning Outcomes

at Goondiwindi State High School through:

Meeting the systemic imperatives of
*Destination 2010, ETRF, and Rural &
Remote Education Framework*

Returning skilled
people to the bush

*GSHS
Student Bursary*

Long-Term Sustainability

Flexible Responsive Curriculum

Constructing a
community-based
rural training
centre

*Goondiwindi
Training &
Technology*

Community Partnerships



**Goondiwindi
State High School:
the centre of our rural
community**

Constructing a
community indoor
sports centre

*Goondiwindi
PCYC*

Addressing Community Needs

Partnering with the
cotton industry to
target skill
shortage

*Pushing the
Boundaries*

Engaging Wider Community

School Based
Traineeships &
Apprenticeships

Structured
Workplace Learning

Student Training

Engagement of Young People

Earning or Learning Options

Flexible and
responsive training
options

*MacIntyre Cluster
Youth Initiative*

Productive Partnerships

Partnerships with:

- Industry
- Community Organisations
- Wider Community
- Local Government

Appendix 1: Supporting Evidence

Table 1- Increasing participants in Structured Workplace Learning Program

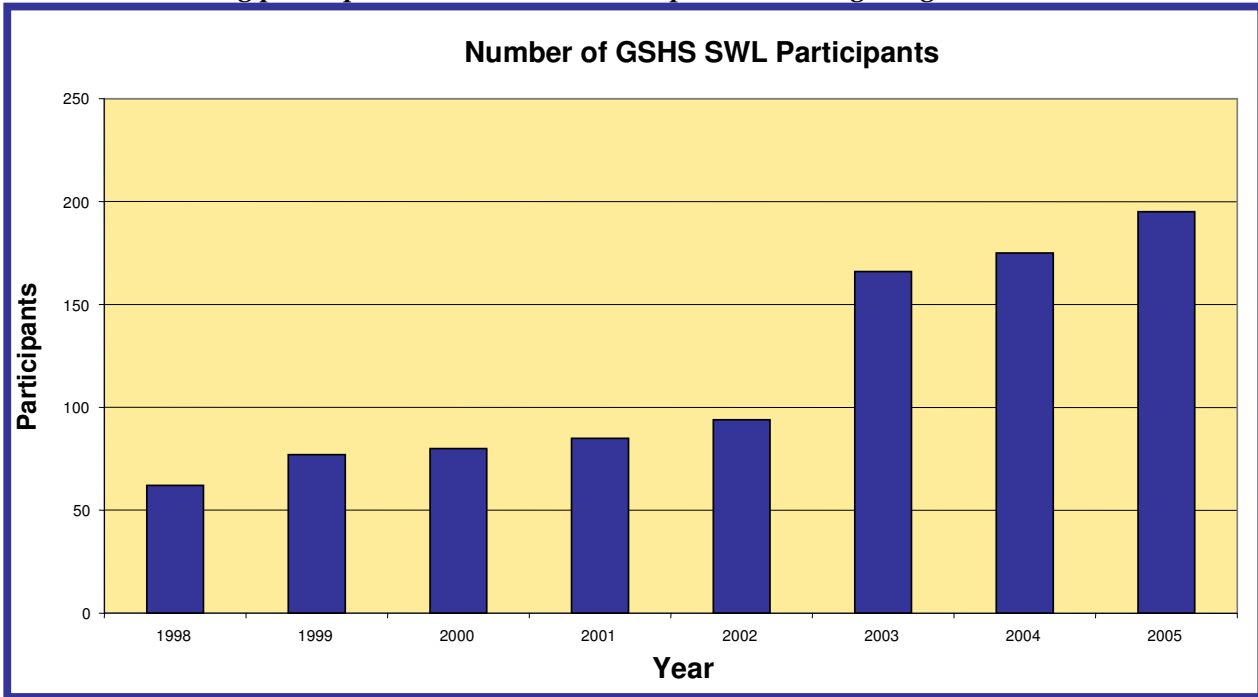


Table 2- Destination Data: MacIntyre Cluster Youth Initiative (2005 Automotive Course)

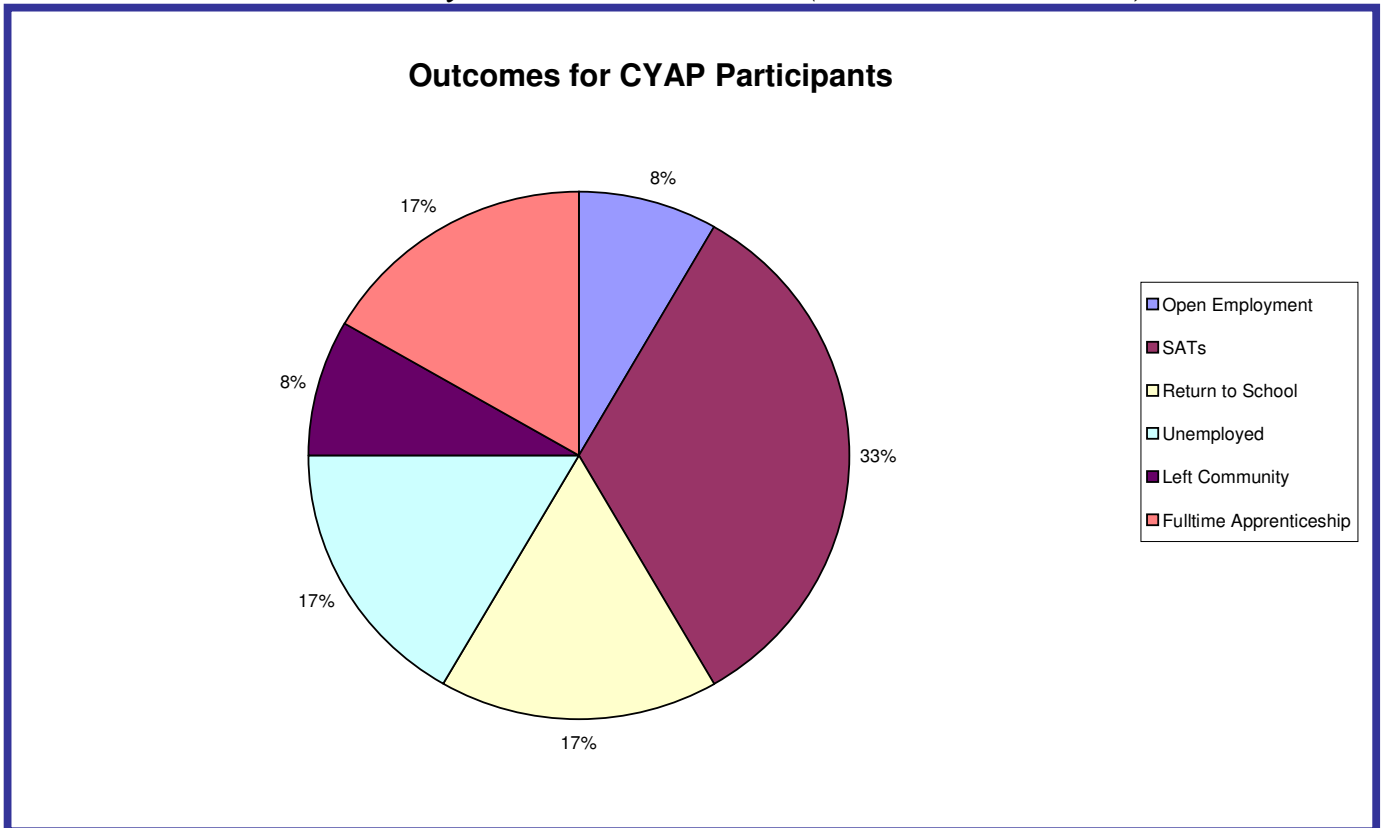


Table 3- Increasing Enrolments at Goondiwindi State High School

