WRCC Newsletter

November 2026

WESTERN RIVERINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
National RTO No.1252

CEO Chatter

Term 4, 2026

Welcome to our final WRCC newsletter for 2026.

As we enter the last quarter and look towards the end of the year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on a great year at Western Riverina Community College, a year of learning, connection, and change.

Our college is about creating opportunities for people through education.

As we reflect on 2026, I want to thank our learners, staff, Board, and community partners for being part of that purpose. There is much to celebrate, and this final 2026 newsletter offers an opportunity to share some of the activities and changes that have shaped our year.

> **“Supporting access to learning across our region remains an important part of what WRCC is here to do.”**

Our team has seen several changes this year. Sue Reynolds retired, but we are delighted she continues with the College as a casual trainer. We also farewelled Manshant as she pursues new opportunities. We will miss her and wish her every success in the next stage of her career. It has also been a pleasure to welcome Rocio and Ruby to our College community. Our activities extend beyond Griffith to our Leeton office, where Kim, Jo and Dee continue to support the learning needs of Leeton and the surrounding communities. Thank you to everyone who has connected with our Leeton team throughout the year. Supporting access to learning across our region remains an important part of what WRCC is here to do.

On a personal note, I will be taking long service leave from December 2026 through February 2027. During my absence, Sheila Marcus will step in to lead the College. I thank Sheila for taking on this responsibility and look forward to reconnecting with everyone on my return.

As we work towards the close of 2026, thank you for being part of WRCC. I hope you enjoy this final newsletter, and I wish you and your families a safe and restful festive season and a happy start to 2027.

I look forward to seeing you at the college soon.

Best wishes,

David Martin
CEO, WRCC



Leeton Centre Manager's Report

November Update – Leeton Office

I honestly can't believe it's November already!
The countdown to Christmas has officially begun! Where has the year gone?!



Things are certainly **travelling along nicely here in the Leeton Office**, and there's been plenty happening behind the scenes (and probably a few coffees consumed along the way!).

We've had lots of students successfully completing the **Employment All Rounder Program**, which has been fantastic to see. With demand continuing to grow, we've also added some extra **Forklift and RSA classes** – clearly, everyone is keen to get their tickets before Santa packs up the sleigh!

Our local schools have also been busy, with students recently completing their **RSA & White Card training** with us. It's always great seeing the younger generation getting some valuable skills under their belts.

The training doesn't stop there! Jo is heading off to **Lake Cargelligo** to deliver *Hygienic Practices*, while Peta is making her way to **Coleambally** to deliver *First Aid*.

Our **Individual Support class** is also going really well, and it's been fantastic watching the students progress and build their skills and confidence.

I also had the opportunity to attend the **VET Managers Meeting in Sydney**, which was such an amazing experience. It was a great opportunity to network, swap ideas and learn more about the **NSA program**, which we're continuing to deliver. There's always something new to learn in the VET world.

And because apparently we weren't already busy enough… we're now looking ahead to **Youth Week 2027!** We're currently chatting with **Leeton and Narrandera Councils** about programs and opportunities for young people next year. We've got some exciting ideas in the pipeline, so watch this space!

So, all in all, **November is shaping up to be another busy one**. Between training, travelling, planning and trying to work out where the year disappeared to, there's certainly never a dull moment in the Leeton Office!

Now, where did I put that Christmas shopping list…?

Kim Handsaker, WRCC Leeton

WRCC Festive Season Closure 2026-2027

As another successful year ends, WRCC will be taking a short break over the festive season.

The College will close: **5pm Tuesday, 22 December 2026** / Reopens: **9am Monday, 4 January 2027**

This annual closure provides an opportunity for our staff to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends before returning refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning and community engagement.

We thank our students, trainers, partners and community members for their support throughout 2026 and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



Students Success Stories – Celebrating Success through the EARL Program



Tereana Matenga

> **... helping people gain confidence, develop practical skills, and take meaningful steps towards their career goals.**



Theophilus Rasu

The Employment All Rounder Program (EARL) at WRCC continues to help participants remove barriers to employment by providing a range of essential accredited and non-accredited training opportunities tailored to individual goals and needs.

Recently, we celebrated the achievements of two dedicated learners, **Tereana Eden Matenga** and **Theophilus Rasu**, who successfully completed the program and gained valuable qualifications to support their career aspirations.

Throughout their training, Tereana and Theophilus completed a range of industry-recognised courses, including **First Aid** and **Forklift Training**, while additionally gaining qualifications specific to their employment goals. Tereana completed **RSA**, **RCG** and **Food Hygiene**, while Theophilus achieved his **White Card**, **RSA** and **RCG**.

Both students joined the EARL Program with a clear focus on improving their employment opportunities and gaining the skills and certifications needed to pursue rewarding careers. Through their dedication and hard work, they have not only earned valuable qualifications but also built confidence in their abilities and future prospects.

Reflecting on her experience, Tereana shared:

"I got a lot of help from WRCC with my courses. I feel like now I have the tickets to back me up, and it gives me more confidence in achieving other studies and courses."

Theophilus also praised the support he received throughout the program:

"The process is so easy with the help of the staff. The schedule aligns well with my working hours, and they really understand everyone despite your culture or country."

Tereana is now looking forward to her next chapter in Sydney, where she hopes to pursue opportunities in bartending or warehousing. Meanwhile, Theophilus plans to use his newly gained skills and qualifications to secure improved employment opportunities.

Stories like these highlight the positive impact of the EARL Program in helping people gain confidence, develop practical skills, and take meaningful steps towards their career goals.

Congratulations to Tereana and Theophilus on their achievements. We are proud to have been part of their learning journey and wish them every success in the future.

Skills for Life: Empowering Communication and Digital Literacy

We are excited to welcome back *Skills for Life* in Term 4, led by our superstar WRCC trainer Sue Reynolds, who was also involved in the program's successful launch in 2025.



Running every Tuesday with a full class of enthusiastic participants, ***Skills for Life*** is designed to support both native English speakers and those who speak English as a second or additional language. The program provides a welcoming and supportive learning environment where participants can build confidence in their reading, writing, speaking, listening and digital skills.

The course encourages learners to set personal goals while developing teamwork and communication skills through practical and engaging group activities.

Student Voices

The impact of the program can be seen in the stories and aspirations of the students who attend each week.



Binalben Prajapati, who arrived in Australia from India in 2019, joined the course to improve her English and create better opportunities for herself and her family.

She shared, *"I want to improve my English, communicate better with my son and get a better job in the future."*

She says the course has helped her make new friends while building her confidence in speaking, reading and writing English.



Originally from Vanuatu, **Cinty Obed** enrolled in ***Skills for Life*** to strengthen her skills and support her career goals. One of the highlights for her has been the supportive learning environment.

"I like how Sue teaches. She explains things well and helps you understand at your own level," she said.

Cinty hopes the skills she gains through the course will help her find new employment opportunities in the future.



For Griffith local **Melissa Cervi**, the program has been about building confidence and connection.

"My goal was to meet new friends and communicate better with people," she explained.

Melissa enjoys the social aspect of the class and values the opportunity to improve her communication and writing skills while working towards future employment in aged care or childcare.

> **"My goal was to meet new friends and communicate better with people."**

Through dedication, encouragement and a shared commitment to learning, the students of ***Skills for Life*** are building valuable skills that will support them in everyday life, further education and future careers. Their stories demonstrate how learning can open doors, build confidence and create opportunities for a brighter future.

Staff & Trainer News

Strengthening our Administration Team

We are delighted to welcome **Rocio Zanelli** and **Ruby Favero** to the WRCC Administration Team.



Rocio Zanelli

Rocio joins WRCC as an Administration Assistant. She brings a diverse background in Communication Sciences, Holistic Counselling and administration. Having learned English as a second language herself, she understands the confidence and opportunities that come from developing new skills and embracing lifelong learning.

Ruby has joined the team as a Junior Administration Assistant and is excited to begin her career with WRCC in her very first full-time role.

When asked to describe herself, Ruby chose the words sporty, fun, and quirky. Outside of work, she enjoys playing just about any sport and keeping active. A fun fact about Ruby is that she can play the clarinet.

Rocio describes herself as curious, adventurous, and determined. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, spending time with her family and fur babies, and attending live music events. A fun fact about Rocio is that she is a tarot reader and crystal enthusiast, but she also loves being organised enough to have a spreadsheet for just about everything!

Since joining WRCC, we have also had the opportunity to celebrate both Ruby's and Rocio's birthdays, enjoying cake and some delicious homemade alfajores, a traditional Argentine treat made by Rocio.

We are thrilled to have Ruby and Rocio as part of the WRCC family and look forward to seeing all they will achieve as members of our team.



Ruby Favero

Other Birthdays at WRCC

We also celebrated the birthdays of Kim and Jo at our Leeton campus, and Kiara, Sheila and Cathy at Griffith.

We hope you all had a wonderful birthday and wish you a year ahead filled with happiness, good health and success!



Rocio Zanelli



Kiara Duncan



Ruby Favero

WRCC & the Community

WRCC Connects with the Griffith Malayalee Community

Western Riverina Community College was proud to participate in the Griffith Malayalees Community Information Evening, held on 24 October 2026 at St. George Bank in Griffith.



Kiara and Vinny in action

The event brought together a range of trusted local organisations to provide information and support to families from the local Malayalee community. Designed to help community members access reliable information in one location, the evening covered topics including banking services, education, employment pathways, training opportunities, and local services.

Representing WRCC were our dedicated Student Support Officers, Kiara Duncan and Vinny Aurora, who did a fantastic job engaging with attendees and sharing information about the wide range of courses and training opportunities available through the College.

Visitors to the WRCC information table learned about vocational education and training, employment pathways, skills development programs, and courses designed to help people gain qualifications and build successful careers. Kiara and Vinny were available throughout the evening to answer questions and provide guidance on training options to support individual career goals.

Events such as these are a valuable opportunity to connect with diverse communities, strengthen local partnerships, and ensure residents are aware of the educational opportunities available in our region.

Aboriginal Youth Cultural, Elder Respect and Employment Program

The **Aboriginal Youth Cultural, Elder Respect & Employment Program (muyulung - ngiyagir) (maldhan)** is a culturally safe, strengths-based initiative supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 15-18 years in Years 9-12.

Running over six Tuesday sessions from 10 November to 15 December, the program combines accredited training, employment readiness, industry exposure, cultural connection and community celebration.

Grounded in the powerful messages of ***know where you come from, know who you are, and know where you are going***, the program helps young people build confidence, strengthen connections to culture and positive role models, and develop practical skills that support pathways into education, training and employment.

The program is delivered in partnership with **Damian Thorne, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Crime Prevention Unit, Murrumbidgee Police District**, and is proudly funded through the **Riverina Murray Skills Allowance**.

WRCC & the Community / First Aid

Outreach Training delivered across Western Riverina Communities



WRCC continues to bring education closer to our communities through the delivery of high-quality training across the Western Riverina region.

On 10 and 11 November, our WRCC Trainer Alison Quinn and the Student Support Officer Kiara Duncan, travelled to Hay to deliver First Aid training to students at Hay War Memorial High School.

As a result, students successfully gained their First Aid certification, equipping them with valuable skills to respond confidently in emergency situations.



WRCC also delivered a community First Aid course on 12 Nov, which was open to local residents where participants successfully completed the training and received their First Aid certification. This was proudly funded by the Hay Jockey Club.

These outreach initiatives demonstrate WRCC's ongoing commitment to supporting regional communities by providing accessible, high-quality, and industry-relevant training opportunities. By delivering training directly to schools and local communities, WRCC helps ensure that people across the Western Riverina have access to education and skills development close to home.

SEASONAL COOKING with Jo Simpson

Gozleme Dough Ingredients





Gozleme dough is a versatile and delicious base for a variety of fillings. Traditionally filled with spinach and feta, creating a savory and satisfying treat. It's also perfect for using up any leftovers you have on hand.

Gozleme also freezes exceptionally well, allowing you to enjoy this delightful dish anytime. Whether you stick to the classic recipe or get creative with your fillings, Gozleme is sure to be a hit! This is a quick and easy recipe, don't be put off because it's a dough.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup plain flour

1 cup self-raising flour

½ tsp salt

1¼ cups of Greek-style yoghurt (300g)

METHOD

1. Combine all ingredients and mix by hand until a dough forms.
2. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth (about 2 mins).
3. Divide into 4 equal portions and keep covered while preparing the filling.
4. Roll each portion into a 25cm round. Place filling on one half, leaving a 2cm border. Fold over and press edges to seal.
5. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a frying pan. Cook for about 3 minutes on each side, or until golden brown, gently flattening with a spatula as they cook.

Suggested fillings:

- **Baby spinach, feta, mozzarella or tasty cheese, spring onion, salt and pepper. Serve with a squeeze of lemon (or Lazidaze Dressing as pictured).**
- **Mexican beef mince, beans and tasty cheese. Serve with avocado salsa and sour cream.**
- **Nutella, strawberry and banana, dusted with icing sugar.**
- **Leftover spaghetti bolognese with tasty cheese.**
- **Leftover curry, served with minted Greek yoghurt and mango chutney.**
- **Or simply fill with your favourite ingredients!**