

Watch Us SOAR in 2024

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Principals Address

Last week Brookton hosted medical students from the Curtin University Rural Immersion program. A significant event during their time in Brookton was the Teddy Bear Hospital which was held in our school library. Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 brought teddy bears or dolls to see the Teddy Bear doctors and were guided through possible ailments and treatment plans for their precious toys. The idea of this program is to demystify the process of talking to the Dr for the children and provide a realistic sense of the challenges of getting information from paediatric patients for our future doctors. With little experience in young children many "Drs" were surprised by the patience required to draw information out of their "patients".

What was impressive about the program for me was the number of Brookton community groups, organisations and individuals who pulled together to inform and educate our visiting medical students and showcase our Brookton community. The Community Resource Centre put together a busy schedule for them. The students met with the Shire, the local St John's Ambulance, the Volunteer Fire Rescue Service, Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation and experienced a Telehealth consult. They played barefoot bowls at the Country Club, caught yabbies, visited sheep yards and machinery sheds, Climbed Boyagin Rock (Boojin), started their "Parmy passport" at the Bedford Arms and were waited on by the Girl Guides.



The sense of “busyness”, purpose and community pride resulting from community groups working together was both energising and thought provoking.

In small towns, working collaboratively to achieve community goals is essential. At school we are excited to further our collaborations with local community groups. We are already working with Seabrook Aboriginal Corporation and the P and C on our canteen project, Wheatbelt and Beyond Youth Mentoring on support for our high school students with career paths and the Stephen Michael Foundation through the South Avon Hub for the Gnalla Djooks Secondary Girls Engagement Program.

There are a few other ideas for community collaborations in the pipeline which are very exciting so as I said last time – watch this space!

Kris Dewson Hall

Principal

Brookton District High School