

Community Action Fund 2011 Report.

Project Name : - Boys on the Move.

**Briefly describe the project.**

Year 5 and 6 boys at Wee Waa Public School designed, built and raced billy carts. The girls in the support teams designed and made banners including the team names and local symbols and logos. Students participated in the project as part of a technology unit and to improve their levels of engagement, goal achievement and to support their transition into Year 7. Wee Waa High School hosted the design and make sessions in their industrial technology room on a weekly basis. Students participated in hands on practical learning and manufacturing sessions. They participated in low risk trade style experiences, designed to link practical learning in the classroom through to community engagement. An in-school race afternoon was held with all the students at the school watching and cheering on the teams. The students also competed at the regional level and all Year 5 and 6 students and support staff attended.

**Briefly describe how you accomplished what you set out to do.**

The school teachers in Years 5 and 6 worked with the students during the design and manufacture of the billy carts and banners. The boys travelled to the high school once a week to work with Mr. Rushton in the industrial technology room. He taught them basic safety requirements of working in a workshop, develop their skills with tools and oversaw the construction of the carts. The girls worked with the year five teacher, the chaplain Mrs. Morrison, and other support personnel to design and make the banners. All students learnt cooperative working skills, design skills and manufacturing skills. The following organisations and individuals assisted with the project : Careers Network, Wee Waa Public School, Wee Waa High School, Youth Connections, Narrabri District Community Aid Service and the Country Areas Programme and Mr Rushton. Local industry provided material support for the manufacture of the billy carts and banners.

**Who benefited, directly and indirectly from the project and how?**

All the students in Years 5 and 6 participated in a successful design and make project. They developed a range of skills in woodworking, sewing and embroidery. They also learnt how to approach local businesses and organisations for support and resources to complete their projects. The students also became familiar with the High School and its staff. The development and implementation of this partnership enhanced the Youth Connections and Narrabri District Community Aid Service youth workers the opportunity to more successfully work with Year 6 students identified as at risk of disengaging from the education system and assisted them to maintain contact and involvement with these students. The project enabled students to relate classroom learning to life skills and future career options.