



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE



## THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE 2017 TEACHER INTERVIEW

### ALANA TROVATO & SARAH ROBINSON - LITTLE BAY COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS

#### WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR TEACHERS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THE BEST OUTCOMES FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND ENJOYMENT THROUGH THE BLOG ELEMENT OF THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE?

ALANA: I found the blog was an excellent tool to help the students retain the knowledge they learnt through the program journey. I was really impressed at how primary school kids can process information on the internet. They loved making the little PowerPoints and uploading on the blog.

To ensure it was an enjoyable learning experience I went online before we investigated each of the four topics, Climate Change, Biosecurity, Healthy Communities and Careers in Agriculture. I did a lot of pre-reading and then gathered the appropriate websites for the kids. I then put together a worksheet and then they just had to click those websites and summarise what they learnt.

The Archibull Prize encourages students to appreciate the ways in which farmers are actively addressing these topic in Australia and to think about applying this to themselves. To help them to think deeply about this I supplied them with a checklist to give them direction. It made it very easy for me to keep track of their learning, ensure they were actively engaged and understood these complex topics.

#### WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE YOUNG FARMING CHAMPIONS VISIT ON YOUR STUDENTS?

ALANA: We studied the pork industry and their school resources are not written for primary school students and in many cases went over their heads. They also don't cover some of the topics in The Archibull Prize. Our Young Farming Champion Laura's visit was wonderful for the kids and really helped us at the beginning. She gave us excellent information and was able to fill in the gaps in the industry resources in a way the students understood. It was a new and exciting learning experience for them.

SARAH: It's very important to get the Young Farming Champions into the school as soon as possible, because the kids are literally sitting there thinking that a farmer is going to be some old guy in a hat with straw hanging out of his mouth. So, when they see these young, dynamic people and they're like, "Whoa, what? You're a farmer?" It shocks me. It happens every year and they're still doing that because they don't know. It really opens their eyes up.

#### WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO TEACHERS ON THE ANIMATION COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM?

SARAH: The blog is easier because essentially, it's a teacher's meat and potatoes. It's getting information, breaking it down, presenting it. Whereas the animation element might be a barrier to some. At our school we have the facilities, expertise and experience we can draw on and we can teach the kids. If other schools don't have those facilities don't be afraid to seek out people in the community who can teach you and your students.

#### CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOUR ARCHIBULL PRIZE, PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL MENTORING PARTNERSHIP WITH MATRAVILLE SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL WORKS?

SARAH: We've trialed a number different models in the four years we have been participating in the program. We have found the best option is to pair up students in Year Four and Year Five with Year Eight. We sometimes pair them with some of the older gifted kids who have been on the program before. It's important not have too many and identify students who will work well together. Last year the program was driven by the Year Four Students. The primary school students come up to the high school and do a one or half day structured workshops. They may blog in the morning in the library with the librarian. The Year Eight students may also work with them on the blog. Last year the primary school students just loved blogging. They just wanted to do it all themselves. It's usually "Can we paint on the cow?" Last year it was "Can we just go and blog?" If we had more staff, what we would do is split the group and have half in the morning blogging, and the other half working on the cow, and then swap them over.

#### THE PROGRAM IS AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY AT YOUR SCHOOL. HOW DO YOU ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING RESULTS YEAR ON YEAR?

SARAH: We aren't given much off-timetable time for The Archibull Prize. So it comes down to how much the staff is willing to put in and how much they want to be involved, and how much they believe in it as well. Even just to take the kids on an excursion, say, in English, to see a play, there's always paperwork involved. It comes down to the staff member, whoever's driving it, they need to be passionate and believe in it and want to be a part of it.