



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE



THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE 2017 TEACHER INTERVIEW INEL DATE - ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL COWRA

BASED IN COWRA IN CENTRAL NSW, ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS SURROUNDED BY A WIDE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES FROM LIVESTOCK AND CEREALS TO A FLOURISHING VITICULTURE TRADE, BUT DOES NOT CURRENTLY TEACH AGRICULTURE. SO WHY WOULD A RURAL SCHOOL WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR FIRST ARCHIBULL PRIZE? ART TEACHER INEL DATE SHARES THE REASONS.

The 2017 Catholic focus for our school is "Laudato Si" – which translated is "caring for one's home". The Archibull Prize is about encouraging students to address the big issues of sustainability, food security and climate change. This is important in rural areas because we feel the impacts of these issues on farmers and allied industries; industries in which many of the students will be making a future career.

WHAT STUDENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ARCHIBULL PRIZE AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE OPTIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS?

The Archie team consisted of 25 students from the Year 7 to 11 Learning plus group (enrichment and extension), although many KLA groups assisted. My group was probably too big, however I split it up into teams and this spread the load of tasks. In the end almost every student in the school was involved in some way. I suppose to make it fair I would do it again with one Year 9 or 10 class being the core group and probably involve no more than 15 students.

DO YOU HAVE ANY USEFUL HINTS AND TIPS FOR SCHOOLS DOING THE PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Get your YFC visits and excursions completed early as it is from these events that you glean information for the theme. Read the newsletters carefully. Get into the "head of the judge". Have a strong theme and narrative. You are not simply showcasing your industry.

WHAT DID YOU FIND WAS THE BEST WAY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS WITH THE PROGRAM IN THE INITIAL STAGES?

By creating an active social media platform; we created our Instagram page immediately and started to feed it onto the blog. We had 90 followers on our Instagram account and in October the blog had 2,900 hits from 32 countries.

DID YOU ENGAGE WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND IF SO HOW? AND WAS IT REWARDING?

The engagement with the community is what made the programme so enriching. We asked the (Indigenous group) Wahlan Warriors to present a workshop and it had an impact on our designs and gave us confidence that we were referencing the Wiradjuri appropriately. We even started using Wiradjuri words- such as the Bili Galari for the Lachlan River.

We had Dr Southan, the CEO of GrainGrowers, do a presentation to the team and it was so interesting for students to listen to industry specialists and have conversations with professionals other than teachers.

We also conducted a whole day Archibull Industry Excursion which involved visiting four local industries/farms. We made sure we were well-prepared with specific questions and worksheets that fed into the research we needed for the mandatory blogs. It certainly put our focus industry of grain in context.

WHAT OUTCOMES HAVE YOU SEEN BEYOND A PAINTED COW?

- Many layers of upskilling of students and educators to work in a large collaborative team on a STEAM project
- Project Based Learning in action and on a public forum
- The Archibull has been influential in St Raphael's decision to teach agriculture as a subject from 2018 for the first time.