

Haley Laws & Judith Stewart

Case Study 1

Haley Laws participated in CCC as a year nine student at Lowanna College, located in Victoria's Latrobe Valley. She initially had some knowledge of the beef industry through her Pop who owns a beef farm. However, CCC was her first introduction to the dairy industry and it opened her eyes to new pathways within a new industry.

"I had only been around beef cows, so CCC showed me a different side in dairy," she said. "Two calves were brought to the school by a local farmer. I learnt about all the different dairy breeds, how to care for them, and about their feed."

"We learnt how to mix the milk and how much to give them. We learnt how to vaccinate the calves, and know the signs if they were getting sick or not feeding as much as they should."

After completing CCC in year nine, Haley went on to complete a Certificate I and II in Animal Studies during her final years of high school.

Lowanna College teacher, Judith Stewart witnessed Haley's growing passion for the industry first-hand. Judith teaches the program within the school's agricultural-horticultural science – or 'Aghort' - studies. CCC has become an essential part of the school's agricultural program, giving students an opportunity to understand and develop the level of commitment required to care for animals responsibly and ethically.

Judith believes that CCC's greatest draw is the positive impact that it has on students, due to its highly engaging nature.

"You've got kids who are passionate about farming, but then you've also got kids who are better with hands-on learning. Having animals in the program helps students to connect, and the impact that then has on their schooling and engagement is huge. Some students started with a 30 per cent to 50 per cent attendance rate, and that went up to over 80 per cent attendance during the animals program," Judith said.

"It gives students a level of responsibility; they're taught how to be responsible but then they're also given the opportunity to show that they can be."

When primary students visit for school engagement days, Judith ensures the calf pens are open so they also have an opportunity to engage with the animals. Judith also highly values the positive connections that Lowanna College has made with their local farming community through CCC.

"CCC gives farming a higher profile and makes it more acceptable – it shows that there's successful farmers with



Lowanna Semester II Ag Studies. Haley Laws far right.

successful businesses in our community," Judith said. "Farmers have also made presentations at our awards night."

And Haley agrees: "CCC is especially good for rural areas," she said, "but it's also a good program for kids in the city so they can learn about what's happening on farms and how milk gets to their fridges."

"CCC can also help students to take a step forward in the dairy industry, as it could give them an opportunity get a job. Students can talk directly to farmers about jobs, and if that farmer is not looking for someone, he can ask his mates, because farmers know everyone!"

Haley has just finished year 12 and with a passion for animals and a love of the outdoors, she is keen to have a career pathway within agriculture. In the short-term, Haley is planning to lend a helping hand on New South Wales' farms affected by the drought. While in the long-term, she is keen to travel to learn about international farming practices, especially through drought periods.

"I really want to help the farmers with the drought and go overseas and talk to people about what's happening with our Australian farmers. I could also gain some insight about what is happening with their farmers and learn how they cope during their drought periods - so we can learn from each other."