



SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF  
WELLBEING

Where there's  a Will

# LET'S STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY



## INVEST IN OUR WELLBEING AND STRENGTHEN THE UPPER HUNTER

Where there's a Will (WTAW) is committed to strengthening youth leadership, mental health awareness, and community wellbeing across the Upper Hunter region. Our 2026–2028 Strategic Plan focuses on delivering high-impact programs within local schools while building sustainable funding pathways that ensure the long-term viability and growth of our mission.

By partnering with WTAW, your organisation will directly support the development of resilient young leaders, healthier school communities, and stronger regional workplaces.

## OUR CORE FOCUS FOR 2026

In 2026, WTAW will refine its focus on proven programs that build leadership capability, improve mental health literacy, and create sustainable pathways for young people to thrive. At the same time, we are establishing strategic corporate partnerships to ensure our programs remain accessible, scalable, and impactful for years to come.

Our work centres on three key outcomes:

- Developing confident, capable young leaders
- Strengthening mental health education and early intervention
- Building sustainable wellbeing capacity within schools, workplaces, and the broader community



# CORE PROGRAMS DELIVERING REAL IMPACT



Where there's a Will

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BURN BRIGHT

WTAW continues its strong partnership with Burn Bright to deliver structured leadership programs across key schooling stages.

### Year 5 – Leadership Foundations

Two regional leadership days held annually in Muswellbrook and Scone engage up to 300 students from across the Upper Hunter, including Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman, Aberdeen, Merriwa and surrounding communities.

#### These sessions build essential skills in:

Confidence and self-belief  
Communication and teamwork  
Initiative and leadership identity

### High School Leadership Program (Years 8–10)

A combined regional program brings together up to 150 students from five local high schools, fostering cross-school collaboration and shared leadership capacity.

This model strengthens not only individual leadership but also regional unity and peer connection.

## DRUG & ALCOHOL EDUCATION

WTAW delivers evidence-based education to Year 10 and 11 students, equipping them with the knowledge and decision-making skills needed to navigate real-world challenges.

This program is delivered in partnership with experts such as Paul Dillon from Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA), or equivalent nationally recognised providers.

#### Students and parents gain practical strategies that support:

- Informed decision-making
- Risk awareness
- Peer leadership and advocacy

## NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, WTAW sponsors 20 Year 11 students to attend major leadership development experiences, including the Sydney Secondary Youth Leadership Conference.

#### Following these experiences, students:

- Establish leadership committees within their schools
- Deliver peer-led leadership and wellbeing initiatives
- Design and implement student-driven wellbeing projects

This creates a multiplier effect, ensuring leadership skills benefit entire school communities.

# LEADING THE WAY IN MENTAL HEALTH



## **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID - BUILDING LONG-TERM COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

WTAW is investing in sustainable mental health education through accredited training aligned with Mental Health First Aid Australia standards.

### **Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA)**

WTAW has successfully trained local facilitators in Teen Mental Health First Aid, enabling sustainable delivery of mental health education within local schools.

**In 2026, WTAW will:**

- Continue to support TMHFA delivery
- Strengthen long-term capacity by training additional instructors

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)**

Youth Mental Health First Aid training will continue to be offered to the wider community at minimal cost (\$22 and admin cost only).

This course equips participants to provide initial support to young people aged 12–18 who may be experiencing a mental health problem or crisis, until professional help is accessed or the situation resolves.

YMHFA has a requirement that at least 10% of staff be trained in order to deliver the Teen Mental Health First Aid (TMHFA) program. WTAW supports local schools each year by providing this training to assist them in meeting these requirements and maintaining access to TMHFA for students.

### **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA – Adults)**

WTAW will become an accredited Mental Health First Aid training provider in 2026.

This will enable WTAW to:

- Deliver an agreed number of MHFA training directly to corporate partners, additional at a reduced rate.
- Expand workplace mental health capacity
- Generate sustainable income aligned with WTAW's mission

# PUTTING COMMUNITY WELLBEING FIRST



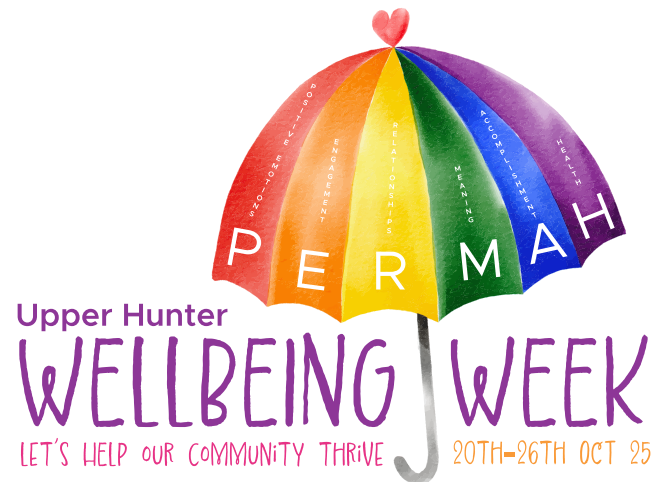
## WELLBEING WEEK

Wellbeing Week will evolve into an annual fundraising initiative, and incorporate the message of 2025 with a significant fundraising component.

Future development ideas include:

- Running MHFA training during the week
- Community contributors purchasing flags displayed along the main streets of Muswellbrook and Scone
- Increased WTAW visibility and engagement across the region through Student Leaders
- Colour Fun Run

The long-term aim is to grow Wellbeing Week into a signature annual fundraiser.



## COMMUNITY PRESENTATION / KEYNOTE EVENT

WTAW will host one community presentation per year over the next three years. Topics will be guided by insights from last year's community survey, ensuring content reflects identified community needs and emerging wellbeing issues.



**Parental Expert and leader in Positive Psychology, Justin Coulson was highly received by families across the Upper Hunter over two sessions in March in 2025.**

# WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



**50 educators** in the Upper Hunter have attained their Professional Certificate in Education (Positive Education)



**680 community members** have been trained in Mental Health First Aid



**Over 200 educators** from the Upper Hunter have attended the annual PESA (Positive Education Schools Association) Conference since 2017



**Over 34** schools, early learning centres and a Travelling ToyBox are on the wellbeing journey with WTAW



**825 Year 8, 9 & 10 students** have completed a one-day Student Leadership Burn Bright Program



**More than 860 students** have attended the Upper Hunter Student Leadership Summit since 2017



**3050 Year 8 students** in the Upper Hunter have been trained in Teen Mental Health First Aid, each year it is rolled out to more than 400 new Year 8 students



**More than 6000 children** every year for the past six years have engaged in Positive Education and Wellbeing initiatives to learn skills and tools to help them thrive throughout life and cope with the challenges of life



**11 Communities** in the Upper Hunter are supported by WTAW



**502 Year 5 students** have completed a one-day Student Leadership Burn Bright Program

## STRENGTH STARS

**Strength Stars program** developed by Prof Lea Waters in collaboration with Kirsty Hails (Director of The Yellow Cottage Preschool and WTAW Board Director)

Educators from 14 Preschools and Early Learning Centres, 15 family daycare centres and our rural travelling Toybox and MOOSH (Muswellbrook Out of School Hours Care) have been trained in Strength Stars.



**Shared our prototype** for embedding Positive Education with new communities (Southern Highlands and Gunnedah)



**175 Year 11 students** have attended the Annual National Student Leadership Summit at St Peters College in Adelaide since 2017



**Over 460 educators** from across the Upper Hunter have completed training in Visible Wellbeing by Professor Lea Waters AM, PhD

# INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION



## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

**WTAW will seek \$10,000 corporate investments, offering partners:**

- **Mental Health First Aid Training Session:**
  - 25 seats (valued at \$7,500)
  - Additional Sessions at \$100 per head (sessions capped at 25 participants)
  - (Non- corporate value - \$250 per head)
- Logo and bio on the website as a key partner with a minimum of 6 social media posts annually including recognition of their contribution and community impact
- Logo on footer of all email marketing and communications
- WTAW Workplace Wellbeing Resource pack
- Opportunities for WTAW Student Leaders to present within partner workplaces, showcasing outcomes achieved by local schools and students
- Opportunity for involvement in Wellbeing Week

## WORKPLACE GIVING

Workplace giving remains a key growth area of WTAW. Workplace giving is an optional, simple and effective way for employees to regularly donate to charities or organisations that are entitled to receive tax deductible donations. For more information on how your business can participate in Workplace Giving, please reach out to the WTAW Team for more information.

## INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

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