

WDSS students helping to sanitise our city

By LEAH ANDERSON-BYRNE

Wangaratta Chronicle

Friday 14th August 2020

382 words

Page 19 | Section: General

462cm on the page



DREAM TEAM:
Wangaratta District Specialist School students, including Colin Pirret and Sebastian Cunneen pictured here with mayor Dean Rees, have been hard at work keeping the city sanitised.

WDSS students helping to sanitise our city

By LEAH ANDERSON-BYRNE

WANGARATTA District Specialist School has been doing its part in stopping the spread of COVID-19 by keeping the rural city sanitised.

The local school, which remains open to students learning on-site, introduced a new Hands on Learning program in 2020 which runs once a week.

Learning specialist Judd Porter said for students to qualify for the program they had to go through an application, reference check and interview process to give them those life skills.

"The program includes a variety of 'hands on' activities such as students maintaining our fleet of bikes, doing maintenance jobs that staff log throughout the school and

maintaining gardens," he said.

"They have a major project coming up which will see them convert an old caravan/trailer into a mobile catering van.

"Students also prepare and sit down to a cooked lunch each week."

Mr Porter said the school incorporates the school values into the curriculum such as being learners, safe and respectful.

"We challenged the students to come up with an idea that fits our values, was socially valid at the moment and gave back to the community," he said.

"They came up with the idea to reduce the spread of COVID by assisting with the sanitising of the high traffic areas in Wangaratta.

"Mayor Rees was very keen on

the idea and the council have supplied us with all the required PPE and cleaning equipment.

"The students do the same thing in house at school given we are still operating as normal."

Mayor Dean Rees said the work the students have been doing was "fantastic".

"This was an initiative led by the WDSS who contacted me about it and I thought it was a great idea," he said.

"The council was very happy with it and we arranged it through our field services officer Jamie Reid and Mr Porter.

"I think it's a great outcome for the council, the school and the community; we're very pleased with the students and were very happy to support them."



COVID BE-GONE: Tyson Barnes joined his classmates from WDSS in sanitising the city.

re
fa
br
di

G
hr
w
S
w
3l