

## Meet the Sunbury College Team Interview with Lynley Huke

Lynley has been a member of the Sunbury ELEVATE team since it first started mid last year. Earlier this year Lynley decided to do an internship with us whilst studying for a Cert IV in Youth Work. Interns work voluntarily with an ELEVATE team 2 days per week whilst studying part time to receive a Cert IV in Youth Work.(1 year) or Diploma of Youth Work (2 years).

### ▼▲ What made you want to do the YMIS internship course?

I wasn't decided on doing a university course, but still wanted to continue my education in some form. Heard that it was based on a lot of practical study. If I chose to I could just do it for one year. Was very interested in studying Youth Work. I thought very highly of Scripture Union and the way that I saw them act out their faith in Jesus. I wanted to learn more about them and challenge myself.



### ▼▲ How have you found your experience of the YMIS course so far?

The Intensive week was amazing. I made some great friends, was challenged a lot and learnt so much. Online study system is very easy and simple. Weekly tasks are very interesting. Workload is very manageable and enjoyable. Very practical and applicable to youth group, church and school ministries.

### ▼▲ What have you learned or found challenging in the course?

I've learnt lots about understanding young people and how their behaviors are linked to the circumstances and support that they are given. How important it is for a person to find a place where they feel belonging and acceptance.

### ▼▲ Tell us something about the school that you're working in and how Elevate is involved in the life of the school?

▼▲ **Sunbury College ELEVATE** program runs every Monday lunchtime. The program is open to all year levels. We begin with an ice breaker game, followed by a short bible study and discussion time, we then end with a time where we have food and drink available for all students. This time offers us a chance to meet and get to know the young people who are coming along and also show them the love and hospitality that God shows us. Each week we try to promote local youth group activities that are running within the community.

### ▼▲ What do you hope to achieve in the school through your involvement as a team?

Our main aims center around meeting young people in their own environment, reaching out and getting to know them, showing them love and hospitality, and offering them a chance to find out more about God and how he is relevant in their lives. Also to provide them with information about the different youth groups running in the area.



**▼▲ What have been some of your struggles in the school?**

2009 was our first year beginning the program, it took us more than 3 terms to find an effective way to promote and structure the lunchtime activities. We began trying to focus just on one year level. That failed when no one would turn up. So we went through many meetings and discussions trying to find out where there was need within the school, and how to effectively promote the program.

**▼▲ What have been your successes in the school?**

On average we see 25-30 young people each week join in on the bible study, majority of them having little prior knowledge about God. We build encouragement for the Christian people within the school, providing them with a place to come, bring their friends and make a difference in their own school. A great success has been in the way the word has spread throughout the school about the program and also the reason for the program. Students will stand outside the room looking in, you can hear them telling their friends that "it's about God", and that "they talk about Jesus". We succeed when students feel comfortable enough to return each week, when they give up their own lunchtimes to sit in and participate.

**▼▲ Share us a story of a young person you know who has benefited from Elevate.**

Zoe - Yr 10. Member of a local church and youth group, loves God with a passion, grown up with a supporting Christian family. Now attending a large public school of 1500+. ELEVATE has provided a space where she brings her friends along to hear about God, to introduce them to who and what she believes in.