Murray Bridge High School
Disability Unit 2016

Dr Christine Roberts-Yates
Assistant Principal
Middle School Class

Students in Years 8 and 9 participate in a range of authentic learning activities that foster their individual academic, social and daily living skills. The curricula includes:

Community Maths;

Literacy;
Art;

Australian Studies;

Health;

Structured Workplace Learning - Monarto Zoo;

Gardening.
Physical Education;

Swimming;

Environmental Science;

Adaptive Rowing;

Bowling;
Rowing on the River Murray is awesome!
Enjoying a range of learning activities
The Sound Board and the Interactive White Board are great for...
Audio books are part of the Premier's Reading Challenge.
I am enjoying observing the Ant Farm, looking at the map of the world and gardening.
The Senior Class

Students in Years 10-13 undertake the modified SACE at Stages 1 and 2. The curricula reflects partnerships with tertiary institutions, community groups, industry and the wider global community including:
Business Services;
Red Cross;
World Vision;
RSPCA;
Flinders University SA;
Zonta International.
The Craniofacial Foundation of South Australia;

Adelaide University;

Minton Farm;

The Salvation Army;

The Women's and Children's Health Network and Research Evaluation Unit;

The Medical Device Research Institute.

SciWorld.
Keeping fit is fun!
Working with the 3D printer requires concentration.
25 November 2015

Dr Christine Roberts-Yates
Disability Unit Manager
Murray Bridge High School
5 Lethlean Street
Murray Bridge SA 5253

I am writing to most sincerely thank you and the students for the great effort with providing pillows and soft blocks you have all worked so diligently on.

These items have been very gratefully received by the Craniofacial children patients at the Australian Craniofacial Unit. The delivery of the items direct to the patients in hospital has made the donations even more special.

The parents and patients greatly appreciate the efforts of you and your students.

I send the best wishes and grateful thanks from Professor David and us all here at the Foundation.

Kindest regards

BIS Shearin
Chief Executive Officer
Learning is great fun with Phil, Sam and Paro, our Socially Assistive Robots.
Programming Lego Mindstorms is awesome!
Murray Bridge students find a friend in robots

By Dani Brown
May 8, 2015, 3:30 a.m.

Remedial robots: Murray Bridge High School assistant principal Christine Roberts-Yates, disability unit student April Birrell and teacher Richard McIntyre with the robots Paro and Sam.

Although robots might have once been seen as futuristic, the disability unit at Murray Bridge High School are using them in the here and now.

In term one, students in the unit were able to meet and learn from robots Paro and Sam as part of the curriculum.

Paro, the interactive seal robot, was initially designed for Alzheimer's disease patients to provide the benefits of animal therapy, but the school was sent one as part of a three-week trial.

Assistant principal Christine Roberts-Yates said some students "lit up" when Paro was around.

"If they have an angst about coming to school, they can come and talk to him, or they can spend time with him," Dr Roberts-Yates said.

"He responds to touch and noise, but when you're talking about your problems, it doesn't matter (that he can't talk back).

"He's looking a bit grey from all the handling."

Hailing from France, robot Sam is an educational tool which is popular in the disability unit, especially with autistic students.

"He goes at a speed which students can understand," Dr Roberts-Yates said.

Sam can be programmed to do whatever the teachers want to focus on - this term, Dr Roberts-Yates said, students were looking at safe work practices.

"He does yoga with the whole class - the class is behind him and he shows them the moves," she said.

"Because it's Sam doing it, the class follows him."

Other activities students have taken part in with Sam's help include spelling, times tables, social stories, and guessing games.

Dr Roberts-Yates said she had seen a significant change in students with regards to engagement, attention, participation and social skills.

"It enriches and adds value to the curriculum," she said.
We enjoyed showcasing our robots on SBS Insight, Trusting Robots.
Gardening is part of our Eco-schools programme.
The students embroidered a cot blanket for HRH Princess Charlotte, designed a card and forwarded a DVD showcasing their educational programmes to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.
The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge forwarded a letter of Thanks and this beautiful photograph to the students in the Disability Unit.

From: The Office of HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and HRH Prince Henry of Wales
Private and Confidential
11th November, 2015

Dear Dr. Robert-Yates,

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to thank you for your very kind letter and card of 6th August on the occasion of the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte of Cambridge.

I apologise for the delay in replying. It was so thoughtful of the children of the Disability Unit to once again create such a charming blanket and Their Royal Highnesses were interested to hear of the continued success of the small business enterprise and thank you for also enclosing a DVD showing the use of socially assistive robots within the school.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to send you their warmest thanks and best wishes to everyone at Murray Bridge High School.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Speys

Dr. Christine Robert-Yates
Enjoying the School Formal
Refugee Week Posters

The Minister for the Department of Education and Child Development gave us certificates for our posters, and Ryan's poster was placed second in the secondary section.
Artistic success for Bridge disability unit students

REFUGEE Week has been put in the spotlight at the Murray Bridge High School disability unit and the students have been rewarded for their work.

Some of the students designed posters to recognise the week as part of a competition to highlight the plight of refugees in Australia. There were nearly 400 entries from 32 schools, and about 50 were selected to be put on display at the Kerry Packer Gallery at UniSA until June 30.

Murray Bridge High School assistant principal Christine Roberts-Yates said her students had created their posters using special paintbrush-style styliuses on laptops.

"I thought they did absolutely brilliantly, they were using the stylius and the laptop for the first time," Dr Roberts-Yates said.

Year 10 student Ryan Horn won second prize in the secondary section, and year 12 students Joshua Tassari and Taylor Henry were both selected to have their designs exhibited.

"For Ryan, being in year 10, it was huge for him," she said.

Ryan received $100 and the unit received $300, which was put towards the cost of the styliuses.

The students were presented with their certificates and prizes at a presentation on June 15, when about 170 people attended the launch.

Dr Roberts-Yates said the work was done as part of the students' modified SACE art program, but they also learned about showing empathy for people with tough or traumatic backgrounds, like those seeking refuge in Australia.

Murray Bridge school's heart-warming donation

June 15, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

Helping hands: Murray Bridge Salvation Army staff Linda Darrow, Capronia Morgan, Colle and Capronia Clyde Colle gratefully accepted donations of blankets and towels endorsed by Murray Bridge High School disability unit students like Katrina Arnold and April Ford give to local homeless people throughout winter.

Students from the Murray Bridge High School disability unit have been busy in their efforts to help the less fortunate in the region.

The unit has been embroidering blankets and towels as part of small care packages for the Salvation Army to pass on to homeless people.

"We decided with the Salvation Army that there was a huge need for blankets, with winter coming up," she said.

She said students learned pressing, cutting and folding techniques, used the embroidery machine, overlocker, and sewing machine, and learned color-matching.

"However severe the disability, they can go on the machines ... everybody has a go," she said.

"They get a sense of pride for a job well done, they can see the end result," she said.

Student Katrina Arnold said putting the designs on the blankets made her feel good.

"We're glad other people get warmth for the winter by giving to the Salvation Army for people on the streets," she said.

Salvation Army community support services team leader Linda Darrow said the students' work would provide emergency relief.

"I think it's good that they're able to provide things for their own community, it will be very satisfying for them to know they are helping others," she said.

She said the Salvation Army was bowled over, so the packages would make good starter packs.

"They're for the community support services area, to assist people in need of blankets and food," she said.

"We especially have families that consist in who have nothing, it's great for those people," she said.
My four year old son, Sammy Leffler, is currently recovering at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide after undergoing Craniofacial surgery to correct his craniosynostosis. While on the ward we received some lovely gifts from Craniofacial Australia including a pillow and a gorgeous handmade pillow case. When contacting Craniofacial Australia to thank them for their gifts they let me know that some very talented students at your school in the disability unit made the pillowcases and donated them to the foundation.

I wanted to say thank you. Because of your gift Sammy had a wonderful nights sleep on the ward. We have travelled to Adelaide from Sydney to be looked after by the Australian Craniofacial Unit and the talented Professor David and gifts like this really help the recovery process.

Thank you again

Marni Leffler
Sewing pillow cases and soft teddies for patients in the Craniofacial Unit is fantastic.
Designing egg babies is fun.

Playing the Nintendo Wii Baby Sitting Mama requires concentration.
We assemble 1000 birthing kits for women in Africa each year.
Caring for virtual babies can be quite a challenge.
The Disability Unit laid a wreath at the school's Remembrance Day service.
Catering is hard work but great fun!
We are working with NAO using Google Cardboard and the virtual piano.
NAO is showing us how to work safely with a sharp knife.
NAO dances Thriller with us and it is awesome!
We enjoy sewing story books in small business enterprise.
Science experiments are great fun!
Fishing is fantastic and we are steadily developing our skills.
Caring for the chickens is hard work but great fun.
NAO is explaining to us the life cycle of a frog.
NAO is checking our safe work practice in small business enterprise.
Working with NAO acrosss the learning areas is awesome!
Catering luncheon and morning teas for Disability SA is great fun and hard work!
Ironing is a useful life skill.
Digital jigsaws and making beanies using looms are great fun!
Thank you to the Murray Bridge High School Disability Unit for visiting the hospital this morning bringing pillows and soft books to some of the Craniofacial kids. Thank you Jason and Katrina and the students of the Disability Unit for making these gifts. Thank you from the patients and families of Craniofacial Australia.
Barista training enables the students to make coffee and hot chocolate for staff as part of our small business enterprise.
Christmas Luncheon

The senior students prepared and cooked pheasant, pork, turkey, duck, roast vegetables and salad for Christmas luncheon. They enjoyed Christmas gifts for all their hard work throughout the year. It was great fun!
What’s happening here? Thank you to the students of Murray Bridge High Disability Unit for your amazing support! You have worked so hard to make these unique pillows and books all hand made ready to go to our young patients. They will be comforting during recover after Craniofacial surgery. One of our young patients received gifts from them this morning, the whole family seemed very grateful. All the very best to our little patients who have surgery tomorrow. We are thinking of you and your families.

Spence with his pillow he received yesterday. He was so excited! Thank you Murray Bridge High School students.
Showcasing the NAO robots to Professor David David and his medical team.