

Reflections of an intern

Louis Harrison

OVER the past three weeks I've completed my Work Integrated Learning placement with the team at The Guardian Swan Hill as part of my journalism degree.

I've had the opportunity to be mentored by senior journalists with years of experience, work alongside peers in the industry and get a taste for rural journalism and what makes it so special.

Throughout my placement, I worked on many stories, talking to people, learning on the job and challenging myself to try new things outside of my comfort zone at times.

One of the projects I'm most proud of is my five-part cost of living story that ran across both the Swan Hill Guardian and the Ganawarra Times.

I spent two weeks talking to frontline services that work to ensure those doing it tough get the support they need, looking at both the causes and effects of the cost-of-living crisis in rural areas.

These stories took me to Kerang, Quambatook, Swan Hill and Nyah where I found out what organisations like Neighbourhood Houses, Northern District Community Health, Quambatook Community Resource Centre and councils are doing to support the community.

I talked to volunteers from local opportunity shops, A Good Kitchen and the Nyah Community Garden who are committed to making a positive difference in their local areas.

These stories matter, the people and faces behind them matter and something I've seen firsthand in the community and also in the newsroom, is a strong sense of care and passion.

I've been fortunate to get the honour of having my stories on the front page of your paper, I've interviewed people giving back to the



University student Louis Harrison enjoyed a variety of experiences whilst embracing a Work Integrated Learning placement in Swan Hill. Picture: Amy Hyde

community, I've taken photos of events, and I've written more than 20 articles in the three weeks I've been here.

I haven't always gotten it right, part of the learning process is also figuring out how to fix mistakes when they do happen and make

things right.

Despite this, my editor and my colleagues have trusted me and been confident in my ability to tell stories deserving of your eyes which I'm very grateful for.

This placement has taught me more than

just how to write a story for a newspaper; it's shown me what it feels like to work in a team who truly backs and believes in me, to ask for help when I need it, to push myself and aim for more, to embrace discomfort at times to grow and truly be proud of my effort and work ethic.

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