

## **Boddington District High School Community Forum**

Last year we carried out the Monitoring Standards in Education (MSE) test '*Respecting and Valuing Others*' with our Year 3, 5, 7 and 10 students. As our students did not perform as expected in these tests we decided to hold a community forum at the beginning of the year to elicit community support to have a whole town program to improve student values development. Some of the participants included the Boddington Shire CEO, mine managers, sporting clubs, parents, business people, all staff, representatives from service groups and the Student Council.

We provided the participants with examples of test items and asked them to workshop appropriate responses - the resulting discussion was fascinating to observe. Participants were then asked to list the values they thought were important to develop a cooperative and supportive community, these results were collated and we voted on the top four values.

We then heard presentations from Gary Butcher (Chaplain from Armadale SHS) who presented the *Choose Respect* program and Sharon Johnstone (year 1/2 teacher at Boddington DHS) on the *Virtues Project*.

The participants then reviewed the values originally chosen and after much debate we chose Respect, Honesty, Accept Responsibility and Endeavour.

As a result of this forum we have started our 2006-2011 School Development Plan with a lot of information from our community to develop one of our priorities "Values Development". We have decided to become a *Choose Respect* school. We have received pledges of assistance from groups outside the school and we have a Student Council and staff committed to continue developing student values.

A committee has been formed to develop these values across the community so Boddington becomes a *Choose Respect Town*.

**Lee Jones Hogg**  
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