

LLEN/LCP CONNECTION



February 2008

WELCOME

Welcome to the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network's (WSMLLEN) first newsletter for 2008. Local Community Partnerships (LCP) work with schools, parents, businesses and community organisations to deliver career development and transition support programmes. Our team of Jo, Christine, Vicki, Felesha & Andrew are working consistently to maintain, develop and create strong and positive partnerships between Industry and Education. 2007 was very productive and successful and there are exciting developments ahead for 2008.

Highlights for 2007

- Maintaining and facilitating the Vocational Education & Training (VET) Access Bus model.
- Supporting the first Connect Ed alternative education program.
- Facilitating the first community Vocational Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) partnership program with University of Ballarat (UB), Wimmera Hub, Horsham College and Nexus.
- Developing the 'Youth Options Guarantee' (YOG) to ensure that young people between the ages of 15-19 have the opportunity to complete year 12 or its equivalent.
- Continuing to develop partnerships with industry, schools and the community.
- Employing a young trainee.
- Convening the Wimmera Regional Youth Affairs Network (WRYAN).
- Advocating for Wimmera Southern Mallee young people at state and federal level.
- In partnership with Wimmera And Southern Mallee (WASM) Careers Network co-ordinated the Careers Expo, held for the first time at the Longerenong Field Days site.
- Executive member of Wimmera Manufactures and Industry Group.

Mission Statement

"...To create partnerships between Industry, Education and the Community that develop positive futures for our young people"

PROJECTS 2007

'Moovers' Dance Group Community Partnership



This group of 11 students under the guidance of their teacher, Paul Denson, has been very busy with their dance classes. They performed for fellow students at Edenhope P-12 College and Goroke P-12 College and they also entertained locals and visitors at the Awakenings Festival and their performances branched out to a wider community audience at the Nati Fringe Festival and the Kanamaroo Festival.

A partnership involving WSMMLLEN, LCP, Horsham College and local choreographer Anna Loewendahl has been successful due to funding obtained by Wimmera Uniting Care **School Focused Youth Service**.



The students produced a DVD to enter the 'myfuture.edu.au' student video competition. The competition gave young people the opportunity to submit a short video clip that profile a range of occupations showing real people in real workplaces. From 56 entries the DVD was short listed for the finals and clips from their video were screened on SBS "the Crew" on the 17th December, 2007.

Local businessperson Lynton Brown from BVP Video Productions in Horsham assisted the students by supplying equipment, supervising filming and assisting with the editing process. "The choreographer" DVD will be used to showcase dancing and choreography to young students.

Hindmarsh Industry Tours, 2007



A partnership involving Hindmarsh Shire, Dimboola Memorial Secondary College, the WSMMLLEN and LCP organised the 'Look Locally School Industry Tour' for 43 year 9 students from Dimboola.

Dimboola students visited Luv-a-duck, Westprint Heritage Maps, West Wimmera Health Service, Wimmera Messenger and Saxton Rural Suppliers at both Nhill and Dimboola.

Hindmarsh Shire provided a barbecue lunch for the students at Nhill's Jaypex Park. Local employers acted as hosts for the lunch.



It is the fourth year that WSMMLLEN has been involved with the 'Look Local Industry Tours'. It is a great opportunity to introduce young people to different occupations, a range of local businesses, and the tours are a great way to inspire young people to realise there are many career options in their local area.

Inspiring Young Women Forum



A panel of professional Wimmera women inspired more than 60 year nine female students from across the region at a careers forum held on November 13th 2007.

WSMLLEN and LCP, in partnership with Women's Health Grampians organised the forum at Horsham Golf Club to inspire young women by showcasing the diverse range of careers currently undertaken by local women. Information on women's health was also available.

The event linked experienced women with the year nine students and their teachers. The professions showcased were; a vet nurse, a radio announcer, a small business owner, a naval officer and a police officer.



Ms. Christine Picone said the experienced women shared their career pathways, education choices and lifestyles and discussed what motivated them and the importance of encouragement by mentors and peers. Guest speaker for the day was former Horsham College student, Casey Green who spoke to the students about her dream of joining the Navy.

Casey currently holds the position of Junior Naval Officer in the Royal Australian Navy. The Wimmera day is based on a similar model from Baw Baw/Latrobe LLEN. Ms. Picone said it would be fantastic if the Wimmera could develop a women's mentoring program between students and professionals to support young women in career pathways.

Youth in Action



On Thursday 6th December, a group of ten, year 10 students from Nhill Secondary College attended the final 'Youth in Action' (YIA) meeting.

The Wimmera 'YIA' focus groups are made up of students from 15 secondary schools who meet each month during lunch time to discuss set topics, or issues that are important to them such as family, health, school, peers and the community.

The focus group meetings are led by a facilitator (e.g. teacher, school nurse or agency worker) who records the students thoughts and ideas. Each group is asked the same questions to enable a snap shot of opinions from across the region.

The Wimmera Regional Youth Affairs Network (WRYAN) has supported this concept of YIA for involving and listening to young people in our community. It facilitates a link back to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Youth Affairs

Careers Expo July 2007



Careers Expo 2007 celebrated 21 years of bringing vocational information to Wimmera and Southern Mallee students, families, school leavers, job seekers and people considering a career change.

The Expo is a major annual event, organised by the Wimmera & Southern Mallee Careers Association, WorkCo, WSM LLEN, LCP, the Wimmera Manufacturing & Industry Group and for the first time the Wimmera Machinery Field Day Committee.

The annual Careers Expo has evolved into a major event for students in our region. Its success lies in the quality and commitment of the presenters, the broad range of exhibitors and the ability to draw students from 20 secondary schools across the region.



There were 98 exhibitors, 20 'Try-a-Trade' exhibitors & 56 information sessions. Approximately 3000 students from 20 secondary schools, both in and around the region were transported to the Field Days site at Longerenong.

As part of planning for the WSM Careers Expo, an Adopt a School Program was delivered. The VET Hospitality "Big Brekkie". As this was the official opening of the Expo, VET hospitality students prepared the breakfast for 100 exhibitors, 20 secondary school teachers, ACE providers, University staff, Official guests and community members on Thursday morning. Approximately 200 people attended this breakfast. During the preparation, a local young business owner Jamie Henwood, who started his trade in VET, progressed onto an Apprenticeship, and now successfully owns his award winning bakery business, The Oven Door, worked with students and supported them in presenting the breakfast.

Jamie was the official guest speaker and opened the expo. He spoke about his career pathway, encouraged the VET students with their studies, and promoted the benefits of businesses hosting Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements and apprenticeships. He was also acknowledged for baking the WSM Careers Expo 21st Birthday cake which was shared amongst guests and students.

VET Orientation Day

Vocational Education & Training (VET) Orientation Day was held on the 31st October 2007.

A total of 290 year 9 students attended from all schools in the Wimmera & Southern Mallee region of which 190 came to Horsham by bus. This is an important moment for students as they come to terms with the magnitude of their decision to study VET. Their world is about to expand dramatically as they meet other students and form new networks.

To emulate a standard VET day the Orientation Day program starts with an assembly at the Horsham College bus terminal from where the students and parents proceed by foot or by bus to University of Ballarat, Wimmera Hub and Longerenong for a general induction followed by an introduction to the courses structure and facilities and some hands on activity.

The morning finishes with a lunch at the canteen and the return home on the bus with a better understanding of VET programs with the hope that most of them will be VET students in 2008.

VET CLUSTER CALENDAR 2008

Date	Event	VET Week		Date	Event	VET Week
Jan 29	School commences			June 25		19
Feb 6	VET Classes Commence	1		June 27	Final Day Semester 1	
Feb 13		2		July 2	School Holidays	
Feb 20	Cluster Meeting	3		July 9	School Holidays	
Feb 27		4		July 16	Cluster Meeting	20
Feb 29	Last Day for VET Withdrawals			July 23		21
Mar 5		5		July 30	Careers EXPO	22
Mar 12		6		July 31	Careers EXPO	
Mar 19	Cluster Meeting	7		Aug 6		23
Mar 20	End Term I			Aug 13		24
Mar 26	School Holidays					
Apr 2	School Holidays			Aug 20	Cluster Meeting	25
Apr 7	Start Term II			Aug 27		26
Apr 9		8				
Apr 16	Cluster Meeting	9		Sept 3		27
Apr 23		10		Sept 10		28
Apr 30		11		Sept 17	Cluster Meeting	29
May 7		12		Sept 19	End Term III	
May 14		13		Sept 24	School Holidays	
May 21	Cluster Meeting	14		Oct 1	School Holidays	
May 28		15		Oct 8		30
June 4		16		Oct 22		32
June 11		17		Oct 29	Orientation Day	
June 18	Cluster Meeting	18		Nov 19	Cluster Meeting	
				Dec 19	End Term IV	

up coming events early in 2008

Students commence school— 29th January 2008

First day of VET classes— 6th February 2008

WSM LLEN Committee of Management Meeting—7th February 2008

WSM VCAL/VET/Careers Cluster meeting— 20th February 2008

WSM LLEN Annual General Meeting—6th March 2008

'Youth in Action' forum— 18th April 2008