
Creating partnerships between industry, education and the community that develop positive futures for young people



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The importance of reading with children

The Let's Read program, which has been established across the Wimmera, is spreading the message of the importance of reading with children from very young age. The pre-school years are vital in developing language skills. The Let's Read program provides a free book for each child when they visit their Maternal and Child Health Nurse at 4 months, 12 months, 18 months and 3½ years. Parents are encouraged to read and talk with their children to support their learning and language development.

Almost 5,000 books have been distributed by the Let's Read program across the four Wimmera Southern Mallee shires since the inception of the program in 2015, thanks to generous sponsorship from Rupanyup and Minyip Community Bank, Horsham Sports and Community Club, Uniting Wimmera, Federation University, Horsham Apex Club 15, Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council.



A study conducted in a partnership arrangement between the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research examined the effect of parental reading to children early in life on the child's own reading and other cognitive skills.

The research found that *the frequency of reading to children at a young age has a direct causal effect on their schooling outcomes regardless of their family background and home environment.*

- *Reading to children at age 4-5 every day has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e., language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.*
 - *Reading to children 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age 4-5 as being six months older.*
 - *Reading to them 6-7 days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.*
- *Children read to more frequently at age 4-5 achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age 8 to 9). These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.*

See the full report: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>

Girls in Gumboots- Showcasing careers in agribusiness for female secondary students

Edenhope College hosted a number of presenters and guests, as well as students from Goroke and Balmoral, at their first 'Girls in Gumboots' day. Over the course of the day, girls in Years 7-10, plus a few extras, were able to attend a variety of workshops and presentations aimed at broadening the opportunities available for women in the agribusiness industry. The College is proud to recognise, and thus support, the local agribusiness industry. The day was a response to community concern regarding the lack of female representation in the agribusiness industry, and a response to a lack of student awareness about the wide variety of career opportunities available in the industry, both in practical and in academic fields. Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN was proud to sponsor this event.

An all-female line-up of guest presenters delivered seven workshops:

- Grains Workshop** - Grains Innovation Centre
- Wool Classing and Shearing Workshop** - Jodie Grigg
- Cattle Workshop** - Robyne Rainsford
- Sheep and Meat Workshop** - Fiona Cameron
- Vet Nursing Workshop** - Alice Rainsford
- Farm Planning/Accounting Workshop** - Lisa Oliver, Lizzie West
- Agronomy Workshop** - Brooke White



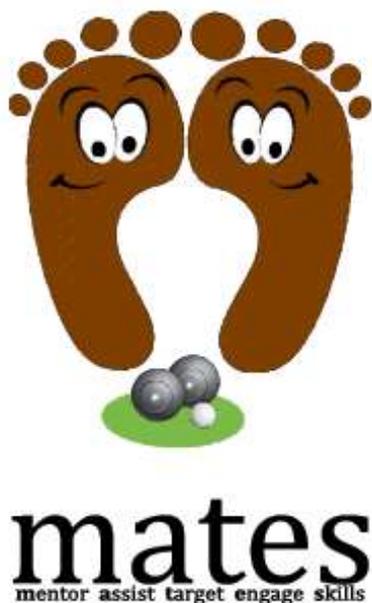
Headspace – digital work and study service



Unfortunately, nearly one in three 17-24 year olds who access headspace are not engaged in employment or education. If you would like support with work or study, the headspace Digital Work and Study service is tailored for young people with no eligibility restrictions. It's voluntary and accessible from anywhere in Australia. [Learn more about our Digital Work and Study Service](#) Watch this [YouTube clip](#) to find out more.

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN
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The MATES mentoring Program will be holding a special event during Youth Mentoring week, 23-29 October. All present and past mentors and mentees who have participated in the program across the Wimmera are invited to attend this local celebration. We celebrate the significant contribution that our local mentors play in the lives of the young people they mentor in the MATES Mentoring program.



Celebrating Australian Youth Mentoring Week

**MATES mentors and mentees,
past and present,
are invited to**

Barefoot Bowls

and

2017 MATES Mentoring Awards Presentations

Friday 27 October
12.00pm - 2.00 pm
Coughlin Park
14 Hamilton St, Horsham

Lunch Provided
RSVP Essential
by Friday 20 October
Ph: 03 53810122
E: mary.bysouth@llen.com.au

If you would like to make a difference in a young person's life by being a MATES Mentor, please contact Mary Bysouth. Just one hour a fortnight is all it takes. Mentors are needed in schools right across the Wimmera.

VET Induction Day

The Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster will hold its Induction Day on Wednesday 1 November for students enrolling in a VET course for 2018. Nineteen courses are being offered by the cluster for 2017.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs delivered to secondary school students are designed to expand opportunities and pathways for students and improve educational outcomes in line with the Victorian Government's objective to increase the number of young people completing Year 12 or equivalent.

VET also addresses the skills and employment needs of industry in Victoria.

In Victoria, nationally recognised VET qualifications can be undertaken by school students to contribute towards the completion of a senior secondary certificate, either the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

VET programs are typically delivered through partnerships between schools, industry and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and often include opportunities for students to participate in structured workplace learning (SWL).

Since 2016, the Department has engaged the Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) to work with local schools and employers to source SWL opportunities.



**Enrolment applications are due on
22 September - the last day of term 3**

These are the courses on offer:

- Certificate II in Agriculture
- Certificate II in Automotive Technology Studies
- Certificate II in Building and Construction
- Certificate II in Business
- Certificate II in Civil Construction
- Certificate III in Community Services
- Certificate II in Dance
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)
- Certificate II in Engineering
- Certificate II in Furniture Making
- Certificate II in Health Services Support
- Certificate II in Kitchen Operations
- Certificate II in Music
- Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-apprenticeship)
- Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics
- Certificate II in Salon Assistant
- Certificate III in Screen and Media
- Certificate III in Sport and Recreation

**Courses will
only run if sufficient
enrolments are
received**

**Speak to your VET Coordinator and get your
enrolment form in so you don't miss out!**

SWL Work Placement Opportunities

Local businesses play an important role in supporting the education of our local young people. **Hosting a student is a great way for businesses to try out potential new employees at very low cost (from just \$5 per day).** Insurance is covered and you don't have to take out tax. It is a great way to see if the young person is a good fit for your business. Now is the time for businesses to start thinking about the positions they can offer in 2017.



This year, businesses in our region have offered 90 Structured Workplace Learning placements via the Online Portal. This is the first year that the Structured Workplace Learning Portal has been in operation. Schools have been delighted with the new online process. The portal provides a simple process for businesses to advertise their position and for students to look for placements. For businesses, this reduces the number of students phoning or calling in to ask for a placement. For students, it provides a formal avenue to approach a business to apply for a placement.

Of course, there are businesses that have been, and will probably continue offering work placements without advertising on the SWL portal, but because of the success of the portal in its first year of operation, we envisage that more businesses will want to use the portal.

At this time of the year, students are making subject choices for next year and many will be considering options where Structured Workplace Learning may be a requirement of their course.

Our LLEN staff will be out and about, visiting businesses to assist with the process of advertising their placement online. **There is no cost to businesses for this service.** Please contact us for more information. To view the online portal, go to: <http://www.workplacements.education.vic.gov.au/lens/wsmllen/>

Early Years Education Awards

We are pleased to announce that Let's Read Wimmera is one of three finalists in the category of 'Creating collaborative community partnerships' in the Victorian Early Years Awards. Being a finalist in this Education Department award is an acknowledgement of the fantastic contribution that our local Maternal and Child Health Nurses, playgroups, kindergartens and schools are playing in the role of encouraging parents to read with their children from an early age. Winners of the Victorian Early Years Awards will be announced on Monday 23 October at an event to be held at the National Gallery of Victoria

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN would like to thank and acknowledge our partners for their ongoing support and contribution to Let's Read. The program has been established across the Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh and Horsham Rural City shires.



Creating collaborative community partnerships

FINALIST

Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network

Jump Start at Rasmussen Campus

Jumpstart, at Horsham Primary School Rasmussen Campus, has been a magnificent program to be a part of, with our team supporting a unique combination of programs and projects including board game lunchtime activities, boosted MATES Mentoring and Reading Buddies. At the moment Rasmussen Campus, with the support of the LLEN and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, is working towards a lunchtime gardening club designed to stimulate learning around nature, sustainability and the environment. The coming together to plant, grow and care for produce will develop the students' sense of imagination and promote social connection. With the club kicking off in term 4, the team is busy preparing the plots, organising seeds and seedlings, and project planning. Volunteers will add to the sustainability of the garden and encourage the children to take a lead role in its maintenance. The lunchtime club is an extension of the great work and structures already in place from the 'Good Tucker, Good Health' project. Thanks to the school, Wimmera Management Catchment Authority, Wimmera Health Care Group Community Health, Grampians Community Health, and Wimmera Primary Care Partnerships for their guidance and support.



Horsham Primary School Garden Project

Hands On Learning - Dimboola

We are proud to support the establishment of the Hands On Learning Program at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College in Term 3.

Hands On Learning is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn. The Dimboola Hands on Learning team has already undertaken a number of school and community projects this term. Two artisan-teachers work collaboratively with small groups of cross-age students on authentic building projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow confidence and achieve success at school.

Hands On Learning fosters strong, long term relationships that help young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life-like collaboration, problem solving, communication, resilience and empathy.

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has supported the establishment of Hand On Learning programs in a number of schools across the Wimmera: Horsham College, Murtoa College, Hopetoun P-12 College, Rainbow P-12 College, Warracknabeal Secondary College and Edenhope College.

Pictured: Dimboola Memorial Secondary College Hands On Learning Project



WASP Recovery Program – Coming to the Grampians

The WASP Recovery Program is coming to the Grampians, 30 October – 3 November.



Overview

The "WASP" Recovery Program is a program of Delhuntie Youth Care Inc., a not-for-profit organisation offering adventure therapy programs for young people. For over 40 years Delhuntie's programs have assisted young people to deal with life's struggles and equip them with the skills to grow and move forward in life.

Delhuntie Youth Care Inc. is based at Bulahdelah, on the mid north coast of NSW. However it has staff and programs based in Victoria and the Wimmera. Brendan Scale, program development coordinator, is based in Horsham and has been working in the Grampians/ Wimmera region for almost 15 years. Brendan has a degree in counselling and has extensive experience in youth work, alcohol and other drugs, and generalist counselling. Brendan has developed a number of programs and initiatives, with some still in operation today. These include the Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce, Knowledge is Power school drug education program, and Mud Map to Manhood.

The Delhuntie Youth Care staff have a combined 70 years experience working with young people and those in need of recovery. All staff have current Working With Children Checks and a qualified First Aider is on hand at "WASP" programs. Staff have relevant qualifications for outdoor adventure activities and staff to young person ratio for the WASP program is based on 1 to 5.

The "WASP" Recovery Program is targeted at young people age 12 to 20. Through adventure therapy, it is designed to assist young people to uncover their pain, hurts and frustrations and learn constructive ways to deal with them.

The program cost is normally \$1,400 per person. As an introductory offer, the cost for the Grampians program is **\$680 per person**. We are aware that the cost may prevent some young people from attending the program. With this in mind, we welcome all enquiries for the program and, after a discussion, will make a decision on a case by case basis regarding cost.

The program runs from Monday morning through to Friday morning. Young people are required to bring their own personal items. All other equipment such as tents, sleeping bags and mattresses are provided.

Activities include team building games, morning swim, abseiling, camping, anger management, and hiking. A copy of the program timetable is available upon request.

The WASP Recovery Program is a therapeutic program and is suitable as part of an ongoing wellbeing plan for young people in schools.

For more information contact Brendan Scale on 0448 816 695 or email delhuntie01@gmail.com. Web: www.delhuntie.org.au

Start your Nursing journey at FedUni TAFE

FedUni TAFE Horsham Campus will be offering the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) and Certificate III in Individual Support (CHC33015) in 2018.

With the Diploma of Nursing you will gain hands-on learning experience in our nursing labs as well as clinical experience through placements in residential aged care, hospital, mental health and community settings.

Become an aged care/support worker, and learn the skills to provide aged, disability and other support to people in the community and/or residential settings, with the Certificate III in Individual Support.

For further information please contact-

Jenny Huebner

T: 5362 2618

j.huebner@federation.edu.au

Gab McCulloch

T: 5362 2664

g.mcculloch@federation.edu.au

Training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding to eligible students. RTO code 4909.

Contributions to News You Can Use

Anyone wishing to contribute news or information about events, is welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the WSMLEEN Newsletter. Articles can be forwarded to info@llen.com.au
WSMLEEN reserves the right not to include items deemed to be incompatible with the purpose of the LLEN.

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Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN is a recognised Gold Skilled Workplace with 80% of our current staff having completed the Youth Mental Health first aid training. We highly recommend YMHA training for everyone who works with young people.

To find out more about being a skilled MHFA workplace, or to apply for recognition for your organisation, go the Mental Health First Aid website. <https://mhfa.com.au/cms/mental-health-first-aid-skilled-workplace-initiative>



The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Newsletter is sent electronically to over 300 people across the region.