

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



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## Let's Read Wimmera Early Years Awards Finalist

The Let's Read Wimmera initiative has been short listed as one of three finalists in the Department of Education Early Years Awards in the category of 'Creating collaborative community partnerships'.

Let's Read Wimmera is an evidence-based early learning initiative, focused on improving literacy by supporting families to read daily to their children from birth onward. A Let's Read partnership was set up in each of the Hindmarsh, Horsham, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack Shires.

The program created collaborative community partnerships with local playgroups, kindergartens, schools, health providers, local government, Delkaia Best Start, Koorie and community organisations to improve children's literacy levels - identified as a critical issue for the Wimmera district.

Tim Shaw, Executive Officer of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network said he would like to see the program implemented across the State.

"We've seen what a difference it has already made over the last four years, living up to our tagline 'kids who read succeed,'" he said. "So many organisations got involved from the early stages and parents are now seeing how important early literacy is for their children's success later on in life."

So far, the program has distributed more than 5,000 Let's Read resource bags to families, set up 90 Pop-Up libraries and four early years programs.

Let's Read Wimmera has been a partnership between

- Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network
- Hindmarsh Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council
- West Wimmera Health Service
- Wimmera Regional Library Corporation
- Wimmera schools and kindergartens
- Wimmera Health Care Group
- Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative
- The Smith Family & Murdoch Children's Research Institute.



## Careers Expo Wins National Award

The Western Victorian Careers Expo has won a national Australian Rural Education Award (AREA). This award is presented annually to an institution, organisation or industry to recognise excellence in rural education in Australia. The Western Victorian Careers Expo was the 2017 winner in the Category: Future projects that support new and creative thinking in professional practice aimed at improving student outcomes in a rural, regional and/or remote setting.

The award was presented at the conference of the Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia (SPERA) and was accepted by Melyssa Fuqua from Nhill College on behalf of the expo committee

The award is fitting acknowledgement of the high quality of the Expo which has been held annually in the Wimmera since 1986.

Western Victorian Careers Expo Chairperson, Andrew Vague said he is very proud to receive the award and happy to see that the Expo is gaining some recognition.

"Our Expo Committee and Project Officer do a fantastic job in the organisation of our event. The growth of the event every year creates more work for the organisers and we are therefore extremely proud to receive some recognition for our efforts."



Nhill College's Melyssa Fuqua (right) accepts the Australian Rural Education Award from SPERA President Brian O'Neill (left) on behalf of the Western Victorian Careers Expo

Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia

# Australian Rural Education Award

*Wimmera and Southern Mallee  
Careers Association*

Western Victorian Careers Expo Project

Winner - Category 2

Projects that promote the professional opportunities in rural communities



**SPERA**  
Society for the Provision of  
Education in Rural Australia

September 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brian O'Neill".

Brian O'Neill - President

## MATES – Youth Mentoring Week Celebrations

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.



**mates**  
mentor assist target engage skills

*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](mailto:mary.bysouth@llen.com.au)

## MATES Mentoring Information Session

### Information Session

If you would like to make a difference in a young person's life by being a MATES Mentor, please contact Mary Bysouth

Or come along to a no-obligation information session to find out more.

Just one hour a fortnight is all it takes. Mentors are needed in schools right across the Wimmera.

**Be a mentor!  
Make a difference!**



"My mentor has helped me come out of my shell and now I feel not so scared talking to adults and older people."  
- Mentee quote

[www.llen.com.au/mates](http://www.llen.com.au/mates)

1 hour catch up, once a fortnight, for 1 year =

**24 hours to  
change a  
LIFE**



### Mates Mentoring Information Session

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017**

5.30pm to 6.30pm

**Building A, Federation University  
Baillie St, Horsham**

#### Info session will include:

- What the Mates Program is about
- Eligibility and Mentor requirements
- Regional benefits of Mates Mentoring
- Mentee matching process

Nibbles during the session will be provided  
<https://www.facebook.com/MATESMentoring>

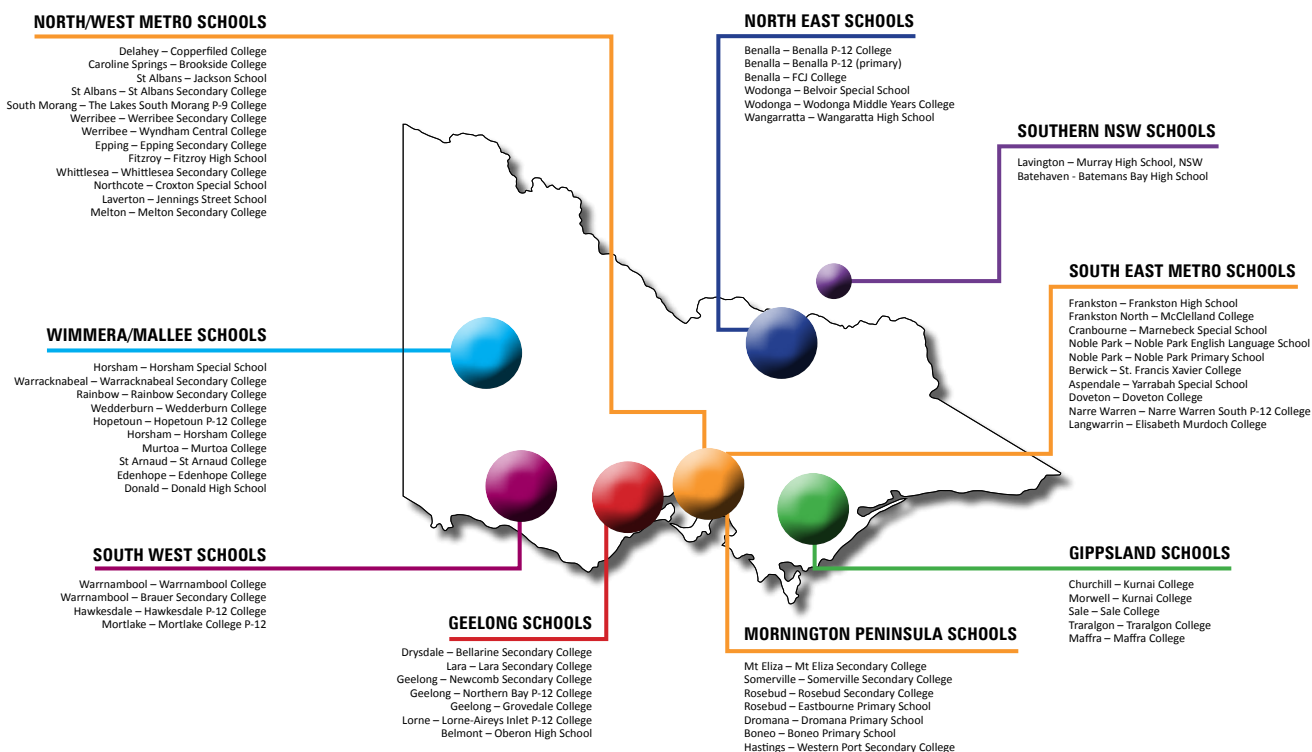
Contact  
5381 0122 for more  
details or email  
[mary.bysouth@llen.com.au](mailto:mary.bysouth@llen.com.au)

WIMMERA  
SOUTHERN  
MALLEE  
LLEN



Proudly supported by **IOBS EWM** WEEKLY ADVERTISER **MDX FM**

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has been instrumental in supporting schools across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region to establish Hands On Learning programs. 70% of State Secondary Schools in our region have established Hands On learning programs, the most recent in our region being Dimboola Memorial Secondary College. The graphic below shows the spread of Hands On Learning Programs across the state in 2016.



The 2016 Hands On Annual Report presented data from information provided by teachers about the students who were participating in Hands On Learning. The data shows overwhelming improvement in engagement in the classroom as a result of being involved in the Hands On Learning Program.

Hands On Learning (HoL) is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn.

Two artisan-teachers work collaboratively with small groups of cross-age students on authentic hands-on projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow in confidence and achieve success at school.

HoL 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.

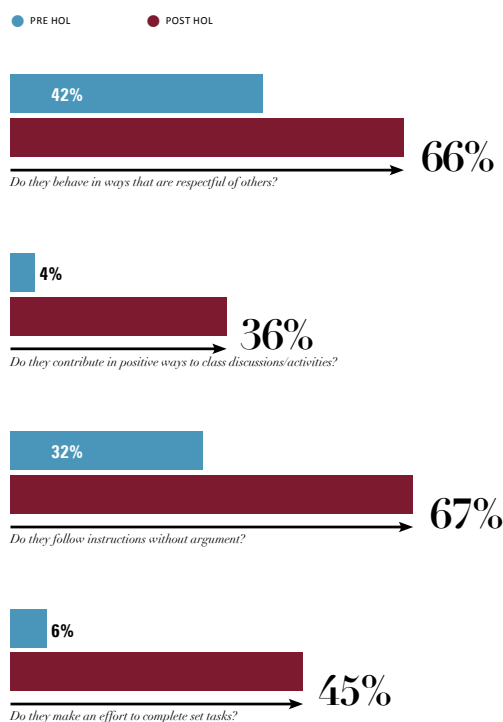
Here's what one student had to say about the HoL program:

*"Not being in class all week makes all the difference -, having a break helped me learn how to hold in my anger. I used to hate school. Before HOL I missed about two days every week and now I come to school basically every day. In HOL we have learnt how to speak up in groups, not to be shy, and to take on leadership, so back in class I listen more, I've got more confidence to answer questions and speak up. I think the smaller group really helped to be honest."*

Year 9 Student

## TEACHERS RATE THE IMPACT OF HOL

Teachers have provided information about the behaviour of their students before they joined HOL and once again later in the year after they have been in HOL for some time. As can be seen below, from perspective of the HOL students' teachers there has been dramatic improvements. This underscores the strength of HOL in changing young peoples' lives, and it's efficacy in helping them reengage with their learning.





## VET Induction Day

Students intending to enroll in one of the VET courses on offer in 2018 through the Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster, will have the opportunity to attend an Induction Day on 1 November 2017.

This day is a 'trial run' for students. It is an introduction to their course and an opportunity for students to negotiate the transport system to get to their courses. It is important that all students attend their Induction Day. Literacy and numeracy tests will be conducted to establish the level of support that students may need.

All students undertaking a VET course must have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) to enrol in their course. Students should have their USI number with them when attend the VET Induction Day on 1st November and on the first day of their course in 2018. It is easy to obtain a USI Number online at <https://www.usi.gov.au/>

## Ten Read-aloud Commandments – Mem Fox

Well known Australian Children's author, Mem Fox, has some great tips for reading with children. She calls them her 'Ten Read-aloud Commandments':

1. *Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud. From birth!*
2. *Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read. Or the same story a thousand times!*
3. *Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.*
4. *Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.*
5. *Read the stories that your child loves, over and over, and over again, and always read in the same 'tune' for each book: i.e. with the same intonations and volume and speed, on each page, each time.*
6. *Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games*
7. *Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.*
8. *Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child's name and yours, remembering that it's never work, it's always a fabulous game.*
9. *Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.*
10. *Please read aloud every day because you just adore being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do.*

'Ten Read-aloud commandments' and image from <http://memfox.com/>



Sadly, many children are not exposed to rich reading experiences at home, and as a result, often need extra support with reading at school.

There are numerous opportunities in schools across the region to join our Reading Buddies Program. If you or anyone you know is able to volunteer for just one hour a week in a local primary school, to listen to children read, please contact us at the LLEN Office on 03 53810122 or register your expression of interest online at <http://www.llen.com.au/reading-buddies/>

## Community Action Network (CAN) Meetings Term 4, 2017

We are in the process of setting dates for Community Action Network Meetings for Term 4.

When meeting dates have been set, they will be posted on our Website at: <http://www.llen.com.au/cans/>

Any individuals or representatives of organisations who have an interest in supporting young people in their local community are welcome to attend CAN meetings.

If you would like to be included on the mailing lists to receive invitations to CAN meetings please contact Lorraine Merton at [info@llen.com.au](mailto:info@llen.com.au)



## Girls In Gumboots

In our last newsletter, we reported on the Girls in Gumboots day held at Edenhope College. See more pictures from this fantastic day below, from the Edenhope College Newsletter.





## Today's students - tomorrow's workforce



Students across the Wimmera are making their subject choices for 2018 and over the coming months, many will be seeking structured workplace learning opportunities with local employers.

Offering a work placement is 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. Your business or organisation can provide an enormous amount of support for students in our region by providing work placements in the form of Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs). It is a great way to see if the young person is a good fit for your business.

Any students who are seeking Structured Work Placement opportunities can search online for local or statewide opportunities via the online portal. For local opportunities, go to:

<http://www.workplacements.education.vic.gov.au/llen/wsmllen/>



### Students complete Ready for Work program

Ten Wimmera-southern Mallee secondary students have boosted their chances of employment after leaving school by graduating from a Ready for Work program.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning students from Kaniva, Hopetoun, Dimboola, Rupanyup and Horsham participated in the program at Federation University Australia's Wimmera campus in Horsham

See the full article in the weekly advertiser:

<http://www.theweeklyadvertiser.com.au/2017/09/27/wimmera-southern-mallee-students-complete-ready-for-work-program/>

## Supported Playgroup

Supported Playgroups ran by Horsham Rural City Council provide eligible families with a place to play, learn and socialise in a supportive environment. The Playgroups aim to support parents to enhance their children's development, while at the same time improving parenting confidence and outcomes for the whole family.



Families are eligible for referral to Supported Playgroup if a family member has one of the following criteria:

- holds a Health Care Card or equivalent
- identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- looking after children in kinship care arrangements (out of home care)
- referred from Child FIRST/Child Protection

(Families on some visas are also eligible, but it is best to contact us to help determine whether they are eligible)

Families are also able to access additional in home support visits and coaching from the facilitators if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Parent aged 25 years or less
- Mother has not completed high school
- Single parent family
- Ten or less children's books in the home.

Groups for Term 4 2017 are:

- Monday 10-11.45am – Rasmussen Rd Campus, Horsham Primary School (Blue fence area)
- Tuesday 10-11.45am – Horsham Special School (Red Room)
- Tuesday 1.30-3pm – Horsham Town Hall (Education Room) (This group is aiming to target younger parents (Under 25), but is open to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria)

To receive a referral form or for more information, please contact Ruth or Ali on 0427 532856 (Monday to Wednesday) or email [supported.playgroup@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:supported.playgroup@hrcc.vic.gov.au)

## Program set to challenge drinking norms

Horsham Rural City Council has received funding from VicHealth to participate in its Alcohol Cultural Change Initiative.

The overall goal of the project is to shift the current cultural norm away from high-risk drinking linked to peer pressure.

The target group the project is aimed at is young people aged 12-18 socialising at private parties where risky drinking can occur.

In order to achieve these shifts, Horsham Rural City Council would be working with parents and the community and also closely with young people.

Project Officer, Annie Mintern, is in the process of forming a youth advisory group who will be heavily involved with the project.

Anyone wanting more information about being a part of the Youth Advisory Group or the Design a Logo competition should contact Annie Mintern, Alcohol Cultural Change Project Officer on 0418 648 815 or by email [info@wimmeracareerexpo.com](mailto:info@wimmeracareerexpo.com)



## Victorian Young Achiever Awards



Nominations close 18 December, 2017

See the categories and entry criteria: <http://www.awardsaustralia.com/young-achiever-awards/vic/award-entry-criteria/>



## Mindfulness Matters

St Brigid's VCAL students worked hard to pull together a new initiative "Mindfulness Matters" with the support of VCAL Careers Teacher Lesley Lannen. "Mindfulness Matters" saw all year 9 students participate in a day to learn positive practical strategies for wellbeing. Hosted at Coughlin Park Community Centre, students rotated between boxing, pilates, mandala colouring, walking/hack sack play, a self-concept session, and a Victorian Legal Aid presentation. The project came to life with the support from Victorian Legal Aid, Headspace Horsham, and Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN. All participants were presented with a show bag of helpful hints and information to support them. Further details and photos can be found here:

<https://www.theweeklyadvertiser.com.au/2017/10/18/mindfulness-matters-at-st-brigids/>



## Lunchtime Gardening Club (Jumpstart)

The Lunchtime Gardening component of the Jumpstart project, at Horsham Primary School's Rasmussen Campus, has kicked off with 25 kids joining in for a session of weeding, digging and planting! With the watering system now geared up thanks to our friends at Bunnings and Wimmera Landscape & Concrete, there is no stopping these youngsters with more plants arriving next week. A special shout out to the lads from St. Brigid's VCAL team for lending us a hand to get the beds up to scratch with a little more muscle power than the younger students could muster. With support from Garden Leaders; Rae (Wimmera Catchment Management Authority), Brad & Fiona (Horsham Primary School) and the LLEN's Melissa and Vanessa, the students are braving the mini spring heat wave for the opportunity to grow.



## Additional VET Training

Terrific article about the Federation University Australia's Wimmera campus offering a one-year health studies program to student in 2018. The program is open to Vocational Education and Training, VET, students in years 10, 11 and 12. This is a great opportunity for young people to start their career into the health industry! For more details visit <https://www.theweeklyadvertiser.com.au/2017/10/18/additional-vet-training/>

## Nexus Comedy Night

See the promotional video at:

[https://vimeo.com/238855746?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm\\_campaign=29220](https://vimeo.com/238855746?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=29220)

**Friday 27th Oct**

**7-9 pm**

**\$5 Entry**

**Djs – Prizes – Comedy – Karaoke – Open Mic**

**Nexus Youth Centre**



## Contributions to News You Can Use

Anyone wishing to contribute news or information about events, is welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the WSMLLEN Newsletter. Articles can be forwarded to [info@llen.com.au](mailto:info@llen.com.au)

*WSMLLEN 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 YMHFA 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.