

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



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## Horsham Primary School, Garden Award



Students from Horsham Primary School Rasmussen Campus have won a Victorian School Garden Award! Stevie and her father, Simon Clark, represented the school to receive the award at presentations held at the Melbourne Botanical Gardens on 15 November. The gardening project at Rasmussen Campus grew out of an initiative to provide lunch-time activities in sustainability and the STEM learning areas which resulted in winning the award for 'Most Engaging Garden for Learning'. The school was supported by Bunnings, Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority to develop a sustainable garden which incorporated many food plants which were of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk people.

*Pictured: Above -Melissa Powell with Horsham Primary School students celebrating their Garden Award*

*Top Left - Stevie and Simon Clark at the State Garden Awards presentation*

*Left - Melissa Powell and Stevie Clark receiving the State Garden Award from Maria Minto-Cahill*



## Preschool Programs

A number of primary schools across our region have established preschool programs to support parents of preschool children and provide activity-based sessions to enhance learning.

Schools recognise the importance of the preschool years in developing vital language and social skills and preschool sessions are designed with this in mind. At these sessions, parents gain skills that they can use to support their preschoolers in preparation for school. Stories, songs and engaging with children in conversation all contribute to a child's language and social development.

An additional advantage of preschool programs in schools is that parents and children become familiar with the school environment. Parents have the opportunity to meet school staff and to become a part of the school community while, for the children, school becomes a familiar place, making the transition to school much easier.

As a part of the Let's Read initiative, Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has supported schools in our region with the establishment of preschool programs in Goroke, Hopetoun, Nhill, Rainbow and Warracknabeal. The aim of the Let's Read program is to support language development in the preschool years and to ultimately improve learning outcomes for young people.

The Let's Read program emphasises the importance of reading to children from a young age and provides children's books for families across the region when they visit Maternal and Child Health Centres for their 4 month, 12 month, 18 month and 3½ year visits. To date, over 6,600 books have been distributed to families across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region to encourage parents to read with their children.



*Pictured: Children at the 'Goroke Magpies' preschool program*

## LLEN VET Awards

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has again sponsored awards for students undertaking Vocational Education and Training (VET) as part of their secondary school studies. The WSM VET Cluster offered 13 courses in 2018 with 269 students from across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region enrolling in these courses. Recipients of the LLEN VET Awards are chosen by the trainer in each course. Awards will be presented at each student's school awards night.

## Book Drive

Ss Michael and John's Catholic School has conducted a book drive to collect and recycle pre-loved children's picture books. This initiative is to support the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN's Let's Read Program.

Let's Read programs across the Wimmera continue to provide books for young families by placing pop-up libraries in public places throughout the community in waiting rooms, playgroups, child-care facilities and places where families with young children gather. Tubs of pre-loved books are made available in these places to encourage parents to read with their children. A total 115 libraries have now 'popped up' across our region with 31 in Hindmarsh Shire, 21 in Horsham Rural City, 16 in West Wimmera Shire and 47 in Yarriambiack Shire. Anyone who would like to donate children's picture story books, suitable for pre-school and early primary aged children, can donate books at Ss Michael and John's Catholic School or at the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Office.

In this waste-conscious age, this is a great opportunity to recycle your pre-loved books to support the next generation of young readers.



## Farewell Mary



Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN has farewelled Project Officer, Mary Bysouth. Mary commenced employment at the LLEN in March 2016 and is leaving to take up a position in the Buloke Shire.

Mary has worked in Structured Workplace Learning and the MATES Mentoring Program, taking on the coordination of the MATES program and delivering mentor training. Mary has also turned her hand to numerous catering projects, including catering for lunches for over 200 exhibitors at the annual Western Victorian Careers Expo.

We wish Mary well in her new position.

## Work Experience

Jayde Sayers, a year 9 student from Murtoa College, undertook a week of work experience the LLEN office in November.

Jade demonstrated her IT skills by producing a short video clip about her experience. One of the benefits of work experience is that students find out whether they would be suited to certain types of work. Watch Jayde's video to find out what she discovered during her week at the LLEN office. <https://youtu.be/c3bvxivrgKU>

It was a delight to have Jayde with us for the week.



## Bee a Mentor!



The MATES Mentoring program is seeking volunteer mentors to support young people in our local area. Now is an ideal time to sign up ready to take on your mentoring role in the new year.

Sign up online at [www.llen.com.au/mates](http://www.llen.com.au/mates)

**Mentors make a difference!**

**Volunteers needed for 2019 for just one hour a fortnight!**

## Fed Uni TAFE Scholarships

FedUni in 2018 has a range of scholarship options which graduating Year 12 student may apply for including:

- scholarships to the value of \$5,000 to Year 12 students across Victoria who enroll in a Federation University Australia course. Applications Open in August each year.
- FedUni High Achievers Scholarship is awarded to students to recognise ambition and reward success. Find out further information about the FedUni High Achievers Scholarship <https://federation.edu.au/future-students/high-achievers>
- If you receive an ATAR of 80+ you are eligible\* for the FedUni High Achievers Scholarship, worth up to \$18,000 including one year of on-campus accommodation.
- Join us at Victoria's #1 university for overall employment and median salary. Our graduates have rated FedUni 5 stars for both student support and overall satisfaction!\*\*
- \* For current Year 12 students. Visit our website for eligibility criteria.

A comprehensive list of scholarship options are available at <https://federation.edu.au/current-students/starting-at-feduni/scholarships/scholarships>

More information regarding the scholarships program can be obtained through FedUni Marketing and Communications Office (schools, parents, care givers and students please feel free to contact Simone Byrne to assist your School). Wishing the graduating students every success.

## FedUni TAFE Information Sessions



### FedUni TAFE's Information Sessions

#### Wimmera Campus Horsham

[federation.edu.au/events](https://federation.edu.au/events)

Community Services Certificate III (CHC32015)  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 1.00pm-2.00pm

Nursing (HLT54115) & Aged Care (CHC33015)  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 6.00pm-7.00pm

Business – Accounting & Bookkeeping (FNS40217), Leadership & Management (BSB61015)  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2018 5pm-6pm

Horticulture Certificate III (AHC30716)  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 1.00pm-2.00pm

Free TAFE Community Services Courses  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.00pm-2.00pm

For further information, please contact: FedUni TAFE Skills and Jobs Centre  
03 5327 6540 [skillsandjobs@federation.edu.au](mailto:skillsandjobs@federation.edu.au)

FedUni TAFE

TAFE VICTORIA

Federation  
UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA



## Support for Single Teenage Mothers in Your Schools and for Single-Mother Parents of Students in Your Schools

Many single mothers are unaware that they can obtain support, make local connections and receive free help through the Council for Single Mothers and their Children (CSMC). This support means they will be better equipped to help their children maximise their opportunities at school. The January/February time period is the busiest time of the year for CSMC as they help mums with financial support and other advice to help them get their children ready for school. Teen mums doing it on their own could also really use a friendly network of women who have gone before them and are ready to help.

Membership is free and services provided are state-wide. Visit [www.csmc.org.au](http://www.csmc.org.au) and join online to receive the free e-bulletin containing a wealth of information to help you.

CSMC have a telephone support line, staffed by professional workers with lived experience of being a single mother. Phone 03 9654 0622 or outside Melbourne on 1300 552 511 between 9.30am-3.00pm Monday to Friday, or email [csmc@csmc.org.au](mailto:csmc@csmc.org.au).



## Phone Call Practice for School Students

So many of our SWL employers, teachers and students are telling us that more young people are avoiding talking over the telephone. They lack the experience and confidence to make a voice call to enquire about a placement, a job or talk to a stranger generally. Despite modern technology facilitating text messaging and online communication platforms, most employers still require people to pick up the phone and speak!

In response to this need the City LLEN has created a new initiative, Phone Call Practice for School Students. Every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4.30pm **students from anywhere in Victoria can ring us** with a pre-prepared opening line (refer to the flyer for distributing to students) and we will guide them through a conversation similar to that with an employer or if they prefer we can answer questions about courses, careers and pathways. See the flyer for more information:

<http://cityllen.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Phone-call-practice-for-school-students-CityLLEN-2018flyer.pdf>

## Phone Call Practice for School Students

Because part-time work depends on it

## Raising Expectations

**Raising Expectations supports students who have been in out of home care (OoHC) to pursue higher education and university. Schools can encourage OoHC students to consider studying at Federation or La Trobe University who have developed a tailored program with extra supports (including financial, mentoring, academic) to facilitate a smooth transition to tertiary studies.**

To find out more about Raising Expectations and to listen to Ashten, a nursing student at Federation University go to <https://www.cfecfw.asn.au/raisingexpectations/>

Brittany Witnish, studying her Masters of Social Work at Monash University, shares her story in The Age <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/program-gets-more-whip-smart-care-leavers-into-higher-ed-20181106-p50edn.html>

For more information on Federation Uni supports, visit the website or contact Pearl Goodwin-Burns, Care Leaver Coordinator on [p.goodwin-burns@federation.edu.au](mailto:p.goodwin-burns@federation.edu.au).

For La Trobe Uni visit their website, or call 1300 135 045.

**Want to study at a different university?** Other universities are starting to come on board.

Talk to Jo Humphries at the Centre on 9094 3509 or email [Joanna.Humphries@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:Joanna.Humphries@cfecfw.asn.au).

**Study at TAFE and pay no tuition fees!**

The Skills First Youth Access Initiative supports young people up to age 22 who have been/or are on a Child Protection Order, Family Court Order or a Youth Justice Order. Eligible young people can study VCAL/VCE through to Advanced Diploma and pay no tuition fees. For more information, call 131 823 or go to:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/Skills-First-Youth-Access-Initiative.aspx>

**In-school and post-school education support for young people in care and care leavers.**

Go to <https://www.cfecfw.asn.au/raisingexpectations/> and click on the flyer with clickable links or for more information contact [Joanna.Humphries@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:Joanna.Humphries@cfecfw.asn.au).



## 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](mailto: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 100% 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.