

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

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## Hope for Success



Warracknabeal year 11 student, Hope Dempsey is celebrating her success which all began with a mock interview at school. During the interview she made a positive first impression on interviewer, Bernie O'Connor. This positive first impression led to a School Based Apprenticeship.

School Based Apprenticeships allow young Australians to get a head start with their careers by beginning an apprenticeship while still working towards their senior secondary school certificate. School-based Apprenticeships are a great career option, allowing young Australians to commence training for a vocational qualification and earn a wage while still at school.

Read the full story in the [WSMLLEN Blog](#)

## Let's Read continues to grow

The Let's Read program continues support a range of literacy initiatives across the Wimmera Southern Mallee. It is great to see schools share and adopt best practice programs. More than 3000 Let's Read resource bags have been distributed to families across the region.

There are now more than 90 Pop Up libraries located in 14 Wimmera communities. The Pop Up libraries are tubs of books situated in doctor's waiting rooms, playgroups, MCHN centres, Centrelink, Salvation Army, chemists, shops and other locations that families visit.

Families can borrow a book and keep it for as long as they like. This initiative is based on the successful Warracknabeal WORDS group Pop Up library model. Students at many Wimmera schools have undertaken school projects to set up the Pop Up libraries in their communities. The students arrange a book drive, advertise, collect books, brand them and set up the libraries in 'family friendly' locations in their town.

The Nhill Lutheran Primary School has worked with the WSMLLEN to develop eight dual language (English-Karen) children's books. Students wrote and illustrated the books, which were launched by the Mayor at a book launch attended by more than one hundred people.

Early years programs are being implemented across the region to build the capacity of parents to support their children's language and literacy development. For example, Rainbow P-12 College, Warracknabeal, Hopetoun and Nhill Primary Schools have implemented a 'Shake Rattle and Read' program (or similar) for young families at the school. This program supports families through the sharing of rhymes, songs, and storybooks with their pre-school children. The program teaches rhymes for parents to use daily with their child/children from birth to kinder age in a fun and interactive way.



## Kevin Sheedy gets 'hands on'

It was great to see four Wimmera schools represented at the Hands on Learning (HOL) conference last week. Mal Smith (Rainbow P-12 College), Luke Carr (Horsham College), Greg McKinnon (Warracknabeal Secondary College) and Wal Ferguson (Hopetoun P-12 College) joined with the HOL team and artisan teachers from schools in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The conference gave participants an opportunity for artisan teachers to share project ideas and successes. Participants also undertook a series of professional development workshops focused on Youth Mental Health First Aid and student well-being.

A feature of the conference was a great presentation from Kevin Sheedy. 'Sheeds' is a great advocate of the Hands on Learning program and stressed the importance of supporting our young people to succeed and enjoy a better life. Kevin is a strong believer in the power of mentors and challenged the group to support and inspire the young people that they worked with.

More information about this great program is available at <http://handsonlearning.org.au/>

*Pictured: Russell Kerr (founder of Hands on Learning), Luke Carr, Greg McKinnon, Kevin Sheedy, Mal Smith and Wal Ferguson at the Hands on Learning conference-*



## Reading Buddies – fulfilling a mission

The Reading Buddies program has welcomed a number of new buddies during Term 3, with volunteers from Wimmera Health Care Group, Goolum Goolum and Wimmera Uniting Care joining the Reading Buddies Program. Reading Buddies spend an hour a week listening to children read one-on-one in a local primary school. We acknowledge the wonderful support of local organisations and businesses that provide flexible work arrangements or release staff during business hours to support literacy development in those vital early years.

These partnerships between organisations and schools fulfil our WSMLEN mission – 'to create partnerships between industry, education and the community that develop positive futures for our young people'

## MATES – celebrating the contribution of volunteers



### 2016 MATES Mentoring Awards

The MATES Mentoring Program will celebrate the wonderful contribution made by mentors and Community Champions at an event to be held at Horsham Lanes and Games on 25 October 2016.

Awards will be presented for:

- Mentor of the Year
- Mentor School team of the Year
- Mentor Community Champion Business of the Year.

To nominate a mentor, a mentoring team or a community champion, download the nomination form template from the WSMLEN website:

<http://www.llen.com.au/mates-mentoring/> Nominations close on 16 October 2016.

### Local Business supporting the MATES Mentoring Program

Community Champion, Café Jas, supports the MATES Mentoring program by releasing a staff member during business hours to mentor a young person. See the video post from 13 September on the Café Jas Facebook page where staff and MATES coordinator, Joy Forbes, talk about the MATES Mentoring Program <https://www.facebook.com/Cafe-Jas-113188175409817/>

## Horsham Special School joins Federation Uni canteen

A fantastic partnership between Horsham Special School and Federation University will see more students gain customer service and retail skills. Students will be operating the canteen at the University's Horsham Campus. Read the article from the [Wimmera Mail Times](#) 17 August 2016

## Mentor for Koorie young people

After leaving school in year 10 and unsure how to move his life forward, Jacob Cooke-Harrison was offered work experience and then a four-year apprenticeship through Skillinvest as an apprentice painter and then went on to complete a certificate III in painting and decorating to begin his own business in April 2016. See the video clip of Jacob on the Skillsfirst website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/skillsfirst/Pages/highlight-jacob.aspx>

Jacob was a finalist in the Victorian Koorie Student of the Year category at the recent Victorian Training Awards and has recently commenced a new role as a Community Engagement Officer at Goolum Goolum as a mentor for Koorie young people. Jacob is one of the team from Goolum Goolum who has joined the Reading Buddies program, providing valuable literacy support for children in a local school.

## More than gum boots and tractors – snapshot of careers in agriculture



Year 9 and 10 science students were treated to a feast of potential career opportunities with a tour of Grains Innovation Park, Longerenong College and Bayer Cropsience, as part of a 'More Than Gumboots and Tractors' science tour centred around agriculture.

Sessions gave students a snapshot into Ag Science related careers and exposed them to a number of leading research and development facilities based in Horsham.

Coinciding with Science week, 62 students from Horsham College, St Brigid's and Dimboola Memorial Secondary College visited 5 different sites including the Australian Grains Genebank, Victorian Phenotyping Glasshouse and Grains Pathology Laboratories and Bayer Cropsience's wheat and canola breeding centre at Longerenong College.

The day was a collaboration between WDA and WSMLLEN, supported with a travel subsidy through the Victorian Wheat Research Foundation.

## Operation Flinders – hats off to Victoria Police

A great initiative by Edenhope Police working with disengaged young people in the Wimmera. Sen Con Ferluga runs the West Wimmera Operation Flinders branch and said the experience gave teenagers a chance to reflect on issues in their lives as well as build respect and self-esteem. Sen Con Ferluga has been involved in the program since 2011 and said he had seen lasting transformations in participants.

See the full article in the [Wimmera Mail Times](#) 9 August 2016

## VET Handbook 2017

The Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster Course Handbook has been circulated to schools for students undertaking VET courses in 2017. Enrolment application forms for 2017 courses need to be returned to the VET Cluster Coordinator at WSMLEN by close of business, 16 September 2016.

Melissa Powell  
VET Cluster Coordinator  
Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN  
Email: [projects@llen.com.au](mailto:projects@llen.com.au)



## VET Induction Day 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016



VET Induction Day will be held on 26 October for all students enrolling in the first year of a 2017 VET course offered by the WSMVET Cluster.

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 26 October and on the first day of their course in 2017.**

**It is easy to obtain a USI Number online at <https://www.usi.gov.au/>**

## Structured Workplace Learning – Online Portal

Since the launch of the Structured Workplace Learning Portal earlier in the year, over 2,000 Structured Workplace Learning placements have been listed on the website. Students seeking a work placements part of their VET or VCAL course, can browse the options available either locally or statewide.

<http://workplacements.education.vic.gov.au/>



WSMLEN staff are happy to visit schools in our area to provide training for students and staff on using the online portal. If you would like some further information or to arrange a training session, contact Melissa Powell at [projects@llen.com.au](mailto:projects@llen.com.au) or 5381 0122.

## School Friendly Businesses – supporting local schools

Many businesses across our region provide fantastic support for their local schools. The School Friendly Business Program acknowledges businesses that support their local schools. Over 100 businesses across the Wimmera and Southern Mallee region have formally registered with the School Friendly Business Program. See the listing of School Friendly Businesses on the [WSMLEN Website](#). Businesses provide support for schools by:



- Being aware of important school dates
- Welcoming invitations to important school events
- Considering flexi-time for parent/guardian employees to attend significant school events
- Welcoming authorised school and parenting information/literature in their staff room
- Being prepared to host students for workplace learning (work experience, Structured Workplace Learning and/or School Based Apprenticeships or traineeships)
- Being willing to allow small groups of students to visit their workplace for a tour
- Support the MATES Mentoring Program by allowing allow employee/s an agreed period of time-release or flexible work arrangements during work hours to participate in the MATES Mentoring Program for 1 hour a fortnight.
- Supporting the MATES Reading Buddies program in their local schools

## Youth Mental Health First Aid training 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September – FREE

Learn how to recognise the symptoms to give initial help to a young person experiencing mental health problems, in a mental health crisis situation, or in the early stages of a mental illness.

Free 2-day Mental Health First Aid Training Course

Day 1 – 9 am – 5pm, Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

Day 2 – 9 am – 5pm, Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September

At Wimmera HUB, 39 Urquhart St, Horsham

To register please contact:

Felicity Johns at Wimmera PCP on (03) 5362 1226 or <http://felicity.j@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au>

or Kellie McMaster on (03) 5362 1222 or email <http://kellie.m@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au>



## Graffiti Cleaning Kit



The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Office is home to a Graffiti Cleaning Kit. The kit is available for schools to borrow. It comes packed in a wheelie bin and contains a high pressure water cleaner, power extension cord, buckets, face protection visor, heavy duty gloves, graffiti removal chemicals, brushes, instruction manual and DVD. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and Safe Operating Procedures sheet are included. Schools borrowing the system would need to ensure that they comply with safety recommendations and are familiar with the MSDS forms provided. Contact WSMLLEN if you wish to borrow the system.

Ph 03 5381 0122 or [info@llen.com.au](mailto:info@llen.com.au)



## 2016 Wimmera Business Awards

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN is delighted to be a finalist in the 2016 Wimmera Business Awards in the not-for-profit category along with Central Grampians LLEN, Community Axis and Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative.

Being a finalist in this category is an acknowledgement of the work done by each organisation to provide much-needed support services in our community.

## WSMLLEN Staff – who's who

Meet our WSMLLEN staff.



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