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



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Following a passion – Vocational Education and Training

The 2017 school year has begun with Rainbow P-12 College VCAL student, Lauren McDonald, back for her second year of VET Hospitality. How great is it to see a young person with so much passion and flair for an industry? Last year Lauren competed her first year of VET Hospitality at the Wimmera Trade Training Centre and has her sights set on her future. She wants to complete her Year 12 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and become a chef and travel the world.

"I want to complete my Cert III and IV in commercial cookery and then I'd love to travel overseas, head out to the big wide world and learn different skills."

Lauren is learning hospitality skills such as safety, waitressing, communication, barista and simple meal preparation and cooking.

"We open for lunch services on Wednesday during school term starting in term 2. The public can book a table

and have a full experience of what we learn as part of the hospitality course. We offer a two-course lunch menu with tea and coffee. We can seat up to 40 guests per session. It's always a full-on day when the restaurant is open. I enjoy cooking the best."

Lauren says "I can't draw or paint but my creative flare comes out in cooking and presentation of food".

Lauren is living and studying in Rainbow and travels by bus to Horsham, as do other students from right around the region, to participate in a more hands-on element of her schooling. "It's hard being from a rural area to gain employment. I'll probably have to move to Horsham when I finish school. I really want an apprenticeship."

The Hospitality course is delivered by Horsham College and is open to students from across the region. The kitchen at the Wimmera Trade Training Centre is well set up with all the latest equipment. Students can learn and experience all the different elements of the hospitality industry. Community members are encouraged to come and support the students and book in for a lunch service when the restaurant opens in Term 2. For any students or parents interested in information regarding VET courses please contact Melissa Powell or Mary Bysouth at Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN on 53810122.



Figure 1 Lauren McDonald, second year VET Hospitality student

Reading Buddies – Horsham Primary School 298

Horsham 298 Primary School launched its Reading Buddies Program with a 'come-and-try' session for volunteers who read with children, one-on-one on a regular basis at the school. Some children master reading with little difficulty while others struggle to master age-appropriate reading levels. For struggling readers, this extra support can help children to develop their reading skills and, in the long term, greatly improve their learning outcomes and life opportunities. The time given by volunteer reading buddies is a wonderful gift to these children. If you or someone you know has a love of reading and a free hour a week to spend listening to children read in a local school, please contact Lorraine Merton at Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN (info@llen.com.au) P 03 5381 0122.

We can always use more volunteers!!

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN
PO Box 841 Horsham
www.llen.com.au



Community Action Network (CAN) Meetings

Community Action Networks (CANs) bring together representatives from key organisations in a local region to work together in meeting the complex needs of young people who are at risk of disengaging from education. CAN meetings are convened and facilitated by Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN.

Meetings still to be held in Term 1:

	Date	Time	Venue
Horsham CAN	Wednesday 22 March	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Room C83, Federation University 289 Baillie St Horsham
Edenhope CAN	Monday 27 March	11-00 am – 12.30 pm	Edenhope College & via Video link at Department of Education Office, 26 Darlot St Horsham
Dimboola CAN	Thursday 30 March	9.45am – 11.15 am	DMSC fitness Centre, School St Dimboola

Bridges out of Poverty Workshop – Warracknabeal 2017 – Booked out

Due to the high demand for places at for the Bridges out of Poverty workshop to be held on 23 – 24 March, tickets sold out before the closing date for bookings.

If anyone who has registered to attend, finds that they are unable to attend on the day, please contact Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN to cancel your registration so that your ticket can be reissued to those on the waiting list. Cancellations will be accepted up until close of business, Monday 20 March.

Anyone who has not registered and is still hoping to attend, may add their details to the waiting list at <https://www.trybooking.com/255812>

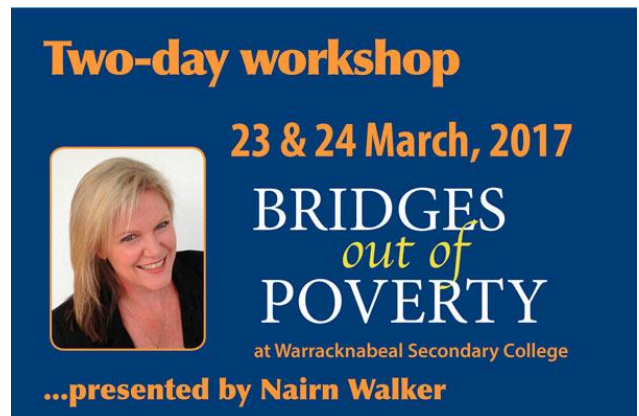
Cost: \$165 per person which includes two-day admission, printed resource materials, morning tea and a light lunch.

Contact :

Lorraine Merton

info@llen.com.au

03 53810122

A blue poster for a two-day workshop. It features a photo of a smiling woman with blonde hair. The text on the poster reads: "Two-day workshop", "23 & 24 March, 2017", "BRIDGES out of POVERTY", "at Warracknabeal Secondary College", and "...presented by Nairn Walker".

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation

Victorian Responsible gambling foundation has some great resources for schools including curriculum based units for a variety of subject areas for years 10 - 12.

These resources have been mapped to:

- Compulsory VCAL strands including Literacy and Numeracy skills and Personal Development Skills
- Year 10 Humanities, Critical and creative thinking and social capability
- VCE Health and Human Development



See <http://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/schools>

A recent study assessing the gambling-related harm in Victoria has revealed some alarming statistics. Under the criteria established for the study, gambling problems were the third highest on the 'harm' scale, behind major depressive disorder and alcohol use and drug dependence.

A community educator is available to visit schools in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region to conduct information sessions for teachers, parents and students.

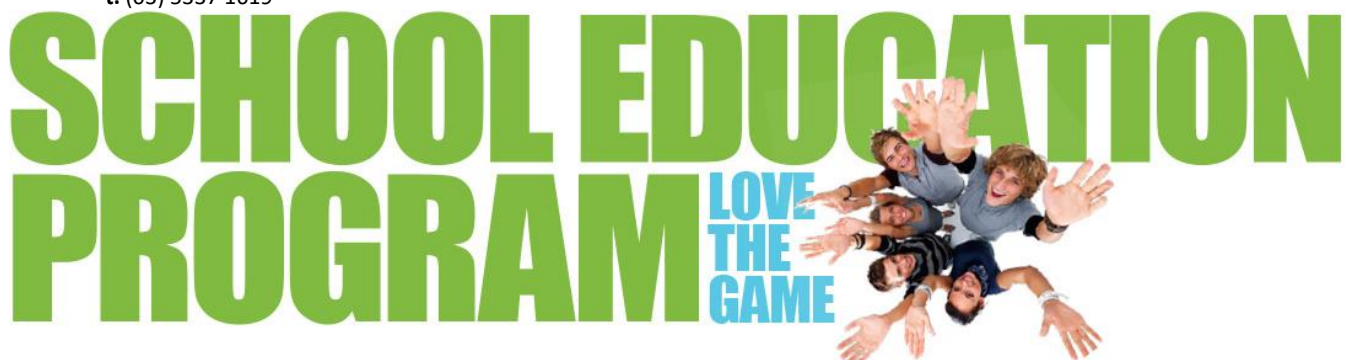
Contact: Tony Goodfellow

Gamblers Help Community Educator / Venue Support Worker

Child & Family Services Ballarat Inc. (CAFS)

115 Lydiard St Nth Ballarat 3350

t. (03) 5337 1619



Workplace Learning

Thank you to employers who have offered to host a workplace student for 2017. Many students who are doing Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses as part of their secondary schooling, are required to undertake a work placement in an area relating to their study. This means that the local business community is playing an increasing role in the education of the young people. We thank all of the businesses in our region who support our young people by offering a work placement.

As well as being a benefit to students, work placements are a great way for businesses to try out potential new employees at very low cost (from just \$5 per day).

For more information, businesses can contact Melissa Powell or Mary Bysouth at WSMLEN. Phone 03 5381 0122



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Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)

Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning & Employment Network

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN supports student work placements in the local government areas of Horsham, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack.



Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN helps school students undertaking VET as part of their VCE and VCAL studies, including School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATs), to access Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) placements in industry and business. We have contacts with employers in retail, agriculture, hospitality and other sectors.



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National Disability Insurance Agency – Community Information Session

Community Information Session

What is the NDIS? - NDIS 101

This information session will be delivered by NDIA staff and partners wanting to start raising awareness and understanding of the scheme for potential participants, family, providers and community members



Horsham 5 April 10.30am – 12noon - Community Information Session 7pm-9pm – Community Information Session Grains Innovation Park Yellow Gum and Banksia Room 10 Natimuk Road, Horsham	Nhill 19 April 7pm-8.30pm – Community Information Session Nhill Memorial Community Centre 77-79 Nelson Street, Nhill
Warracknabeal 19 April 11.30am – 1.00pm – Community Session Yarriambiack Shire Offices Meeting Room 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal	Stawell 21 April 12pm-2pm – Community Information Session Stawell Entertainment Centre Auditorium Room 59-69 Main Street, Stawell

MATES mentoring

The Horsham College MATES program had a catch up for mentors on Tuesday 14th March. Kate Polack, the College Chaplain, hosted the gathering. It was great to see mentors catching up and sharing their experiences with each other. The interest and care that mentors have for their mentees really stood out. Mentors were proud of the achievements of their mentee. They often downplayed the role they were playing, but it was clear to see that they were playing a very significant part in the lives of the young people they are mentoring.

MATES mentoring continues to expand across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region (and beyond) with 16 active programs in our region. We always enjoy hearing stories about young people benefiting from the program and as a consequence, doing well in school, sharing new experiences and even gaining employment. These achievements have got a lot to do with the positive role modelling provided by their mentors.

Have you got 24 hours to change a life? We are always looking for new mentors. Just one hour a fortnight makes a real difference in a young person's life. To find out more, please contact the WSMLEN office or check out our website and some great videos at <http://www.llen.com.au/mates-mentoring/>.

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme

Applications are now open for young Australians aged 16-23 to join a voyage in the national sail training ship Young Endeavour.

A voyage in the Young Endeavour is an exciting experience and a unique opportunity for youth to develop skills for life. Internationally recognised development program builds self-awareness, develops teamwork and leadership skills and fosters a strong sense of community responsibility. 24 youth from across Australia will join each eleven-day voyage during the 2017 program. As members of the crew they will keep watch and take the helm, handle lines on deck, cook in the galley, navigate using the ships charts and climb the 30-metre mast to set and furl the sails.

If this sounds like fun to you please apply at www.youngendeavour.gov.au. Voyage fees and conditions will apply to successful applications. Please apply before April 2017 for the best chance of being drawn for a voyage.

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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.

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