

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



In this Issue:

WSMLLEN AGM and Annual Report
CAN Meeting Dates
MATES Mentoring – New Coordinator
Jump Start Project- Can you help?
Women's AFL Star at the Western Victorian Careers Expo
Bridges out of Poverty – a great success
Top Arts – Opportunity for VCE Students

Ready Set Read - Nhill Early Literacy Program
Online Resources – for young people with an eating disorder
SWL Placements- Online Portal
Wimmera Information Portal
YACVIC Conference, Halls Gap, June 2017
Seed to Store- Nationwide Video Competition

Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN AGM



The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 3 May. Guest Speaker, Matt Copping, Principal of Horsham Special gave a presentation on Celebrating Diversity in a School Setting. The meeting was followed by a magnificent supper provided by the hospitality students at Horsham Special School.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN 2016 Annual Report can be viewed online at: <http://www.llen.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2016-WSMLLEN-Annual-Report.pdf>

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. Anyone with an interest in supporting young people in the local region is welcome to attend.

Meeting details are as follows:

	Date	Time	Venue
Dimboola CAN	Thursday 25 May, 2017	9.45am – 11.15 am	DMSC Fitness Centre, School Street, Dimboola
Nhill CAN	Wednesday 31 May, 2017	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Nhill College, Whitehead Ave, Nhill
Murtoa CAN	Friday 2 June, 2017	9.00 am – 10.30 am	Murtoa College, Webb St, Murtoa
Edenhope CAN	Monday 5 June, 2017	11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Edenhope College, 40 – 48 Lake St, Edenhope Or Videoconference from 26 Darlot St, Horsham
Horsham CAN	Wednesday 7 June, 2017	11.30 am – 1.00 pm	Room C83, Federation University, 289 Baillie St, Horsham
Koorie CAN	Thursday 15 June, 2017	11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Room A5, Mallee Building, Federation Uni, 289 Baillie St, Horsham
Warracknabeal CAN	Friday 23 June, 2017	11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Warracknabeal Secondary College, Tregear St, Warracknabeal

MATES mentoring – New Coordinator

Katrina Janetzki became a co-mentor in the MATES Mentoring when her partner began mentoring a young boy who needed the support of an additional adult in his life. Over time, Katrina became more involved in mentoring and building her relationship with her mentee, and began to see some significant positive outcomes for him. When Katrina first met her mentee, he was withdrawn and profoundly disengaged from his peers and his schooling. In spite of this, Katrina could see that he was a pleasant young boy, with a great sense of humour and unique energy that made everyone laugh. This mentee was always excited about his fortnightly timeslot with his mentor and they quickly became great friends. Katrina also rapidly noticed, that through her support and encouragement, her 'mate' began to have a desire to excel in his school work and participate more in school activities, both in the classroom and socially in the playground. Katrina too, found great benefit in giving back to her community and being a positive influence in the life of her young mentee.

This experience inspired Katrina to change her career path and pursue employment within the community services/education sector. Katrina has recently commenced employment with Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN in the role of MATES Mentoring Program Coordinator for the local region. Katrina is very passionate about enhancing the lives of people in need and is looking forward to seeing more young people benefit from this great program.



Jump Start Project

Students at Horsham Primary School Rasmussen Campus are enjoying weekly Boardgames sessions as part of a WSMLEN partnered 'Jump Start Project'. The project aims to support the students oral language development, social skills, motor skills, resilience and health and well being.

The involvement and engagement from the students each week has been overwhelming with many laughs, competition and enjoyment shared.

Can you Help?

Do you like gardening, reading or playing board games? Horsham Primary School Rasmussen Campus is always on the look out for volunteers to assist with various programs including Jump Start.

Other programs that are currently requiring volunteers are Reading Buddies, Mates Mentoring, Gardening Project and Breakfast Club Programs.

To register your interest in becoming a volunteer with one of these rewarding programs, contact Angela Watson from the WSMLEN via angela.watson@llen.com.au or phone (03) 5381 0122.



Women's AFL Star at the Western Victorian Careers Expo



Collingwood's Moana Hope, will be a guest at the 2017 Western Victorian Careers Expo.

Underneath the tattoo sleeve, the soft voice and the mercurial skills, Moana Hope is a fine footballer. She has won the Victorian Women's Football League (VWFL) leading goal-kicker award, the Rohenna Young Medal, for three consecutive seasons. Her best season, 74 goals in 2006, highlights her rare ability.

However, Hope decided to give up the game in 2011, having done everything women's footy had allowed her.

She is a full-time carer for her disabled younger sister (and one of her 13 siblings), and her mother was struggling with a range of illnesses.

But watching the Western Bulldogs and Melbourne exhibition match in 2013 inspired 'Mo' and gave her a new goal. She was drafted by the Bulldogs a year later and has played every women's AFL match since. It was no surprise that when Hope returned to the VWFL, albeit with a new side, the St Kilda Sharks, she took off where she left off - 87 goals in 2014 (a new personal best) and then another 68 in 2015 showed everyone that she's still easily amongst the best players around.

A game-high three goals in the Western Bulldogs' maiden win over Melbourne in March 2016 further affirmed she has what it takes at the top level.

In 2017, the 29-year-old became one of Collingwood's first marquee players when she ran out for the Pies in the inaugural Women's AFL competition. Moana will be a guest at the 2107 Western Victoria

Careers Expo and will speak at two sessions, commencing at 10.30 am and 12.30 pm in the TIS Pavilion. Moana will also make appearances during the day at the Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly site.



Western Victorian Careers Expo
Wimmera Events Centre, Longerenong
9.30 am – 2.30 pm, Tuesday 27 June, 2017
<http://wimmeracareerexpo.com/>

Bridges Out of Poverty – a great success

Two hundred people attended a two-day Bridges Out of Poverty workshop in Warracknabeal in March, presented by Nairn Walker, a much-sought-after presenter. Tickets to the event sold out well before the closing date for registrations – an indicator of Nairn's reputation as a presenter and the relevance of the workshop content. The workshop was subsidised by the Warracknabeal Oral Reading Development Strategy (WORDS) group and attracted attendees from across the four Wimmera and Southern Mallee shires and beyond.

Top Arts – Opportunity for VCE Students

Folio preparation and skills development at the National Gallery of Victoria, Federation Square

Ideal for students studying VCE and are looking for guidance and inspiration to help prepare their folios and assessment pieces. Led by Deakin University's senior design lecturer within the School of Communication and Creative Arts, this hands on, collaborative session is a unique opportunity to work with likeminded creative individuals and will give students the confidence needed to become a successful creative arts practitioner.

Date: July 15

Cost: \$9 (1.5 hrs, NGVA)

Further details and registration information will be available at

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/top-arts-2017/>

Ready Set Read – Nhill Early Literacy Program

Several schools in the local region have established programs to support literacy development for preschool children.

The Nhill College established a program called Ready, Set, Read to support and empower parents and caregivers through the sharing of rhymes, songs, and story books. The program demonstrates and teaches the rhymes and songs for parents to use daily with their child/children. It also demonstrates how to read aloud effectively to get the most out of books and begin teaching children important pre-reading concepts. The goal is to give parents the tools to maximise their child's brain and language development by helping them with strategies they can use. It is not the aim to teach reading in the program but that the children have experiences that help them develop pre-reading skills before beginning school.

These language activities:

- Help with language acquisition
- Help the development of memory skills
- Encourage the child to make new sounds or words, adding to their vocabulary
- Assist in developing a sense of rhythm essential in literacy development

Patting or clapping while singing and chanting helps the child learn about beat and the rhythm of language and assists with balance and timing. Other actions help with coordination and brain development, like hand eye coordination, crossing over the midline of the body, which are necessary before reading and writing. Combining speech and movement boosts language and listening skills. Fine motor activities like finger plays and gross motor actions like jumping and hopping aid the physical development of the child. The interactive use of books can help foster a love of reading and appreciation of books and can extend a child's world beyond the home. The action songs and books can stimulate the child's creativeness and imagination.

Similar programs have been established at Rainbow, Hopetoun and Warracknabeal. WSMLLEN has supported these important programs by providing seed funding for resources and set-up expenses.



Online Resources – support for young people with an eating disorder

Two interactive and evidence based online tools have been developed by CEED (Vic Centre of Excellence in Eating Disorders). One is a parent quiz for concerned carers to enter responses and print a report to take to their GP with concerns about their adolescent's eating behaviours. The other is for young people and adults with body image concerns to work more transparently with health professionals. Worth looking through and knowing about.

<http://www.feedyourinstinct.com.au/>

<http://www.reachoutandrecover.com.au/>

SWL Work Placement Opportunities

Here 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. 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/wsmlen/>



Wimmera Information Portal

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN is proud to be working with local organisations and Federation University's **Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI)** to plan and develop the Wimmera Information Portal (WIP). Partner organisations include:

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Justice and Regulation Horsham (to be confirmed)
- FedUni –Wimmera campus
- Grampians Community Health
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Victoria Police Horsham –Western District Division Four
- Wimmera Drug Action Taskforce
- Wimmera Primary Care Partnership
- Wimmera Uniting Care

The project partners are working together to establish a portal which contains information that can be accessed and shared across social services agencies within the Wimmera. This 'one stop shop' will enable a range of local economic, social, education, health and justice data to be accessed on one website. The portal will also include a digital library for access to a range of relevant reports and documents.

A key goal of the portal is to provide practitioners, researchers, the sector, government and the community social services place based and region wide information on demand. This will maximise the capacity for evidence based decision making, planning and service system development into the future.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) Conferences 2017

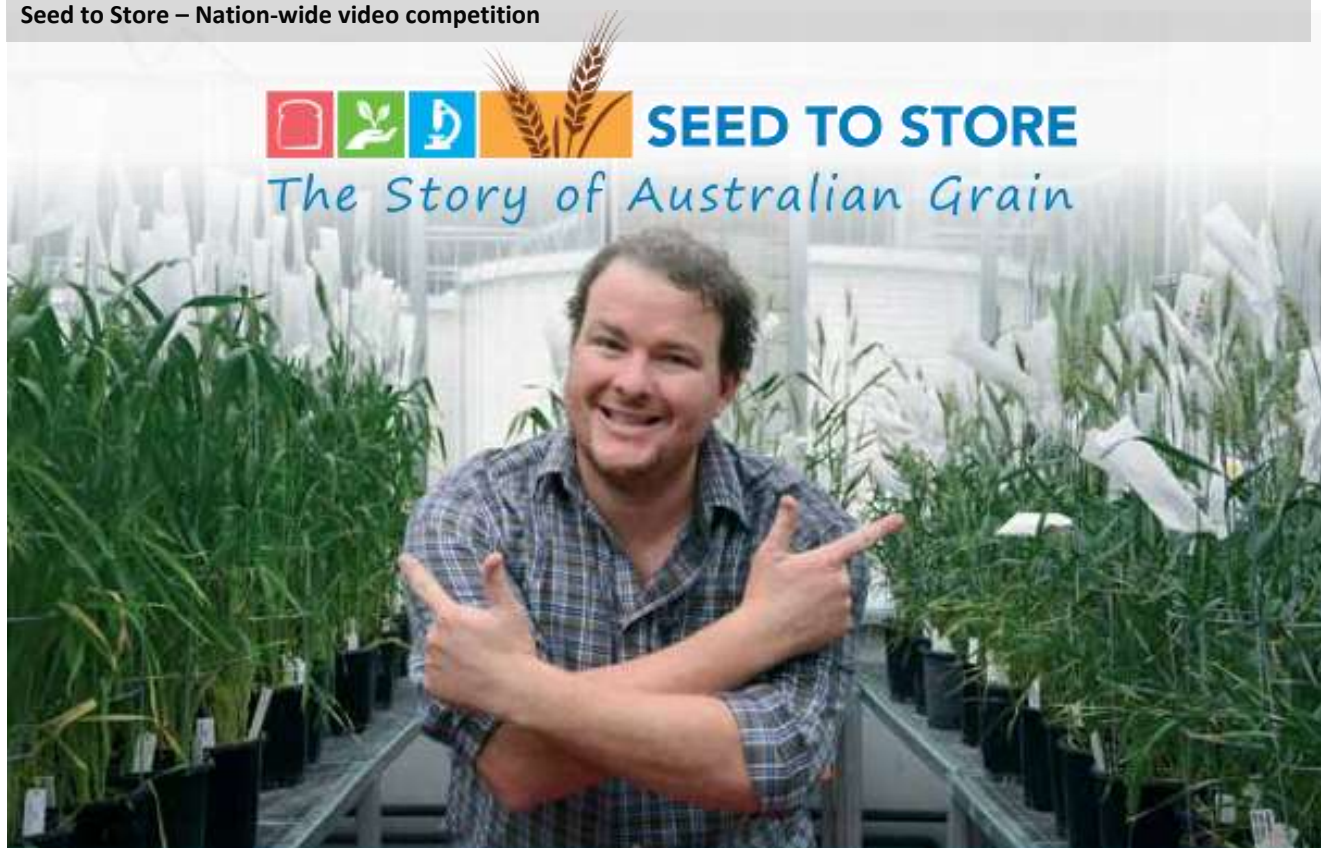


YACVic
Rural Conferences 2017
placing young people at the centre of our practice

Halls Gap | 28 and 29 June 2017
Halls Gap Hotel, 2262 Grampians Road Halls Gap

The YACVic conferences are for people who work with and for young people in regional and rural Victoria, and have been designed to explore the four major areas identified in last year's youth forum series: mental health, employment, education, homelessness/housing.

YACVIC Conference Program and tickets available from www.yacvic.org.au/news/events



We want an insight into the innovation and excitement of the grains industry! Create an entertaining one minute YouTube clip profiling any aspect of the Australian grains industry to **WIN \$1000 CASH** presented by Grains Ambassador, Andrew 'Cosi' Costello, at the 2017 Royal Adelaide Show!

Create an entertaining one-minute video clip showcasing the Australian grains industry to WIN!

Seed to Store – The Story of Australian Grains is an exciting nation-wide video clip competition which will run in conjunction with the Royal Adelaide Show's 2017 Competitions. School students and community members are invited to produce a one minute video looking at the journey of grains, legumes, oilseeds and pulses from the paddock to the plate.

So students and teachers alike - get filming! There is a total prize pool of \$2400 for creative and engaging clips which promote the story of grain growing in Australia – from seed in the ground to product in the store!

The competition is supported by the Grains Research & Development Corporation, the South Australian Grain Industry Trust and the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society. Closing Date 11 August, 2017

Download more information from <http://theshow.com.au/show-entries/competition-details-entry-forms/horticulture-and-agriculture.jsp>

Contributions to News You Can Use

Anyone wishing to contribute news or information about events, is welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the WSKLLEN Newsletter. Articles can be forwarded to 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 100% 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.