

MATES MATTERS

Term 2, 2020

In this issue Contents

<i>A Message from Sam</i>	1
<i>What our MATES mentors and mentees are saying...</i>	2
<i>MATES Mentor Training Continuing</i>	3
<i>Oh the places you'll go!</i>	4
<i>About the LLEN</i>	6
<i>Helpful Phone numbers</i>	6
<i>Contact the MATES team:</i>	6

A Message from Sam

What a start to the year! Throughout Term 1 we caught up with (most of) our in-school coordinators to re-engage for the new year but, as we all know, things have changed quite quickly this year.

Firstly, thank you for volunteering to be a MATES mentor. You are making a real difference in the life of your mentee. Unfortunately, in accordance with the Victorian State Government regulations and measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, we advise that ***no face-to-face mentoring catch-up sessions should take place until further notice.***

We are currently investigating alternate means of catch-up sessions through social media and web-based platforms to maintain the connections and relationships between mentors and mentees. We are currently working with the Department of Education and Training to ensure that any phone, social media or web platform catch-ups comply with DET and Child Safe regulations. Maintaining the health and safety of our volunteers and young people is our primary focus.

We ask that any mentors wanting to contact their mentee outside of the school environment, first check with their MATES school coordinator to ensure that the contact complies with school policy. While some established mentor-mentee matches have permission to meet outside of school grounds, we understand this may not be the case for primary school students and schools who have elected not to have outside catch-ups within their program.

We have placed all LLEN hosted MATES related events on hold, including face-to-face training, launches, and celebrations.

Mentor training will still be available online and we are investigating methods of a more interactive style of training – e.g. Facebook live. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in participating in the online training, please email me on mates@llen.com.au.

As each school will have a different policy in place regarding volunteers in relation to the developing COVID-19 situation, we ask our volunteers to contact their in-school coordinators for the most appropriate course of action.

Again, we thank all the participants involved in the MATES Mentoring Program at this time. We will provide further updates when they become available. Take care, keep safe and stay well.

Sam Flaherty
MATES Coordinator



Contact the MATES team:

Phone: 03 53810122

Email: mates@llen.com.au

Web: llen.com.au/mates

Facebook: facebook.com/MATESMentoring

Instagram: [matesmentoring](https://www.instagram.com/matesmentoring)

WIMMERA
SOUTHERN
MALLEE
LLEN



What our MATES mentors and mentees are saying...

“Jo” started mentoring “Tilly” in 2015 at a local primary school in Horsham and, despite the MATES mentoring program running for a year, they continued with the mentoring relationship well beyond the prescribed year. The MATES team met with Jo to talk about and share the great experience.

**Names have been changed to protect the identity of the mentor and mentee*

What is mentoring to you?

Jo: Mentoring to me is meeting up with my mentee once a fortnight and just being with someone. I think it's a wonderful experience. You're there for them and they're there for you too – it's just great.

How did you get into mentoring?

Jo: Originally my employers were asked to participate in the program, but given their busy schedule they asked if I would like to mentor. I said 'no worries' straight away. I find it to be great. Both my children have grown up and moved away and it's a great experience to connect with a young person.

What type of activities do you do with your mentee?

Jo: I mentor a little girl who really likes craft and making things. We've also done a fair bit of cooking as well. It is hard to find recipes that only

take an hour to cook but we make it work. I've also had the chance to teach her things that I learnt at her age from my grandmother and pass down that knowledge to another generation. We've gone outside and learnt how to press flowers and make them into cards. We also really enjoy playing games—it's something we both really like doing.

Why have you continued with mentoring?

Jo: I've continued mentoring after the program finished mainly because I really enjoy it. It's a lovely experience and I feel like we've got a special bond together. When I see her face when I arrive at the school for the one hour a fortnight it really says it all. She's always really excited to be there.

I definitely think the mentoring experience has impacted me and my mentee. We both really enjoy and look forward to our catch ups.

Would recommend mentoring?

Jo: I think that more people should get out there and do it, especially businesses in the local area—it's great for the community and it's wonderful for the kids. I recommend anyone to get in there and give it a go—it's fantastic!

Check out these MATES videos on our website...

Listen to what some of our past mentors and mentees say about being a part of the MATES Mentoring Program.



MATES Mentor Training Continuing

Face-to-face training sessions for MATES mentors have been put 'on hold' for the time being, but we are still looking for positive role models to mentor local youth!

While we're practising safe social distancing, we've made the training available online.

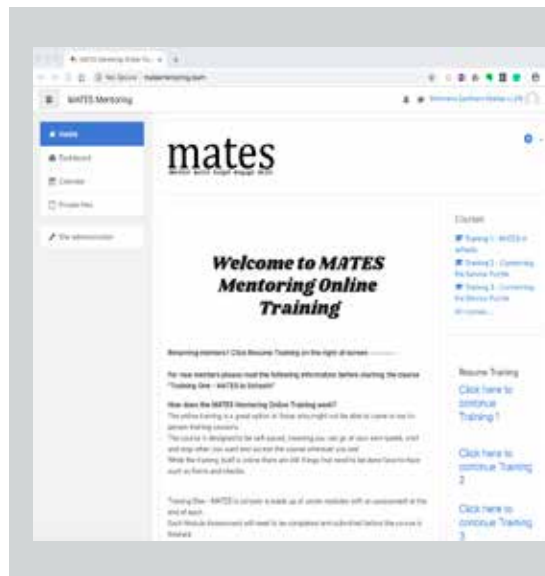
The training can be done on your phone, tablet or computer and stopped and started at any time.

If you're being a legend and staying at home, but sick of watching movies, try the mentoring training and make a positive difference in a young person's life!"

Contact Sam on 03 538 10122 or email mates@llen.com.au to register for a training session.

**We are still seeking mentors
Online training available
Enquire now!**

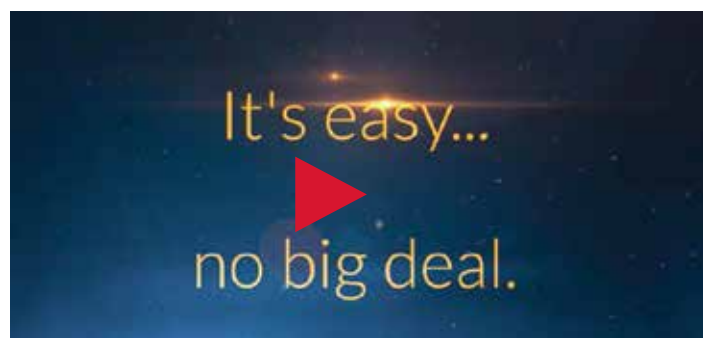
MATES training is a free professional development opportunity and existing mentors are welcome to repeat the training as a refresher.



MATES training is available online.

The training is all self-paced and can be accessed anywhere and anytime! It takes approximately two hours to complete but can be stopped and started at any time. If you're interested or know of someone who wants to mentor but finds it hard to find the time, to attend training, let Sam know and he can sign you up.

Watch this inspiring video clip
This is why we need MATES mentors.
It's easy...no big deal.
Click the image to play.



Oh the places you'll go!

We've put together a list of places you can experience from the comfort of your own home!

Click on the images to go directly to the virtual online tours.



Explore life beneath the ocean at Live Streams Aquarium.



Choose from a range of tours at Yosemite National Park.



Get a 'birds-eye-view' of lots of wild-life via Live animal streams.



Take a virtual tour of Victoria's National Gallery.



Visit the Vatican and step inside the magnificent Sistine Chapel.



Visit the world of renowned Latin American artist, Frida Kahlo.



Drop in to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.



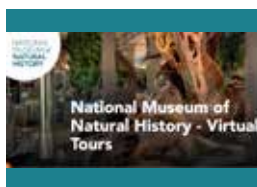
Make this your starting point to visit ten top museums.



Explore six art exhibitions that are now closed to the public but available online at the Vancouver Art Gallery.



Tour the World and visit thousands of displays of Street Art.



Take virtual self-guided, room-by-room tours of selected exhibits at The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington.



A gallery of virtual tours from around the world.



A great place to start to tour some of USA's famous national parks.



Select from any of six different tours of the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Click on the images to go directly to the virtual online tours.



Choose to take part in a range of virtual events and tours at The Met Museum in New York City.



Take a tour, room-by room, through the National Surfing Museum in Torquay.



Explore the world of one of Australia's most famous sporting icons at the Bradman Museum in Bowral, NSW.



Step inside this magnificent Chinese Theatre in LA.



Visit the Taj Mahal in India, one of the world's most famous buildings.



Travel back in time to the ancient world at Machu Picchu.



Visit the world of the ancient Egyptians at the Pyramids of Giza.



Explore the mystery of Stonehenge.



Wander through the breath-taking Palace of Versailles in France.



Climb on board the International Space Station or an 'out-of-this-world' experience.



Take a trip to Rome to the ancient Colosseum.

Have fun exploring
our amazing world!



Sam Flaherty
MATES Coordinator



Tim Shaw
Executive Officer



Vanessa O'Loughlin
Systems and Development

Contact the MATES team:

Phone: 03 53810122

Email: mates@llen.com.au

Web: llen.com.au/mates

Facebook: facebook.com/MATESMentoring

Instagram: [matesmentoring](https://instagram.com/matesmentoring)

About the LLEN

Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) are an initiative of the Victorian Government. They were established to bring together schools, business and industry, community organisations, government agencies and individuals to improve the lives and education outcomes of our young people.

The Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN works across the Hindmarsh, Horsham, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack local government areas. We have a strong focus on supporting disadvantaged young people to remain at school. The WSMLLEN strives:

- To improve the participation of vulnerable young people and their families in education
- To increase the re-engagement of young people into programs leading to qualifications
- To increase our schools' engagement with the community to improve students' aspirations and education outcomes

Helpful Phone numbers

Grampians Community Health: 5362 1200

Hindmarsh Shire (03) 5391 4444

Horsham Rural City Council: 5382 9777

West Wimmera Shire:

Edenhope: (03) 5585 9900

Kaniva: (03) 5392 7700

Yarriambiack Shire: (03) 5398 0100

Police (Horsham): 5382 9200

Rural Northwest Health (03) 5396 1200

West Wimmera Health Service (03) 5391 4222

Wimmera Health Care Group (Horsham Hospital): (03) 5381 9111

Bushfire information: 1800 240 667

headspace (Horsham): 5381 1543

LifeLine: 13 11 14

Nurse on call: 1300 060 024

SES Emergency: 13 25 00