

# CCLLEN BULLETIN

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**Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning & Employment Network Inc**

## Welcome to the Spring edition of the CCLLEN Bulletin

This bumper edition attests to some of the exciting things we have been working on and planning over the winter months as we now enjoy this lovely spring weather. CCLLEN staff, Anne, Bev, Alison and Lauren certainly take pride and pleasure in all that they have been doing to work with schools and the community in general to support young people as they transition through school and into further education and training or employment.

### Important dates

*20th September*  
Grand Final,  
Murray River  
Culinary Challenge,  
Bendigo TAFE  
Echuca  
Campus

*26th October*  
Helping Children  
with Dyslexia  
Workshop

*4th & 5th November*  
A framework for  
Understanding  
Poverty

*23rd November*  
VET in Schools  
Excellence Awards  
Night, Moama  
Bowling Club

## Murray River Culinary Challenge



The prestigious Murray River Culinary Challenge has been 'on again'. The Challenge is an industry standard cooking competition for Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) Hospitality students.

Over 200 students from 29 schools in the Shepparton, Deniliquin, Echuca, and Swan Hill regions have participated to date.

In the CCLLEN region students from Echuca College, Rochester Secondary College, Rushworth P-12 College, Kyabram P-12 College, St Augustine's College Kyabram and St Joseph's College Echuca competed at an individual school and then regional level. As winners of the regional final St Joseph's College's Jade Vicary and Anthony DeCicco will represent us in the Grand Final held at **Bendigo TAFE Echuca Campus on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.**

Menus at each level of the competition become progressively more difficult. Students compete under commercial conditions cooking and presenting 4 serves of a 4 course meal. Judges are top industry representatives. Paul Cohen from Rich River Golf Club, Barry Moyle, from Moama RSL, Dean Oberin from Oscar W's, Judi Gilson from Coriander Functions and Scott Pitts from Ceres are our region's judges. Their time and expertise is very greatly appreciated.



Through to the Grand Final, St Joseph's Jade Vicary & Anthony DeCicco



The Regional Finalists and Judges Judi Gilson & Dean Oberin



Dessert presentation by the Kyabram P-12 team

'Education is the best provision for old age.'

Aristotle



A big thank you to our Culinary Challenge major sponsor Moama Bowling Club.

## Apprenticeship Information Session



A section of the audience



Workplace Learning Coordinator Alison Dunstan with the apprentice panel

July's Community Apprenticeship/Traineeship Information Session held at the Quality Inn, Port of Echuca was a great success. 75 people attended the session including students from schools across the region. CVGT and MEGT presented the 'nuts and bolts' of Apprenticeships and Traineeships and explained the diverse range available, including Apprenticeships, Traineeships, School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship and Pre-Apprenticeships. Alison Dunstan, Workplace Learning Coordinator presented on the importance of work placements and explained the employability skills that employers look for. The Defence Force Recruiting Trades Team gave a dynamic presentation. A panel of local apprentices and trainees giving personal insights on their experiences was a highlight.

The Information Session was a collaborative project between CCLLEN, The Defence Force Recruiting Trades Team, and two local Apprenticeship Centres, CVGT and MEGT.

## VET in Schools Excellence Awards

Outstanding performances by regional Vocational Education & Training in Schools (VETiS) students will again be celebrated at this year's VETiS Excellence Awards. Students are nominated by either their Teacher/Trainer, VET Coordinator or Host Employer for an award in each of twenty three VETiS programs. There will also be an award for an outstanding performance by a School Based Apprentice/Trainee (SBAT). To be eligible for nomination students must have completed a workplacement.



Shortlisted nominees will be interviewed by an independent panel of industry judges who will select winners in each category along with the overall VETiS student of the year. Winners will be announced at the Gala Awards Night on the 23rd November 2011 at the Moama Bowling Club.

Jacq Campbell has joined the crew at the CCLLEN to bring together the Awards and is looking forward to a great celebratory occasion for our local young people.

### 'It's a Jungle Out there'.

## Parents VIC Conference 'Zoo-ming Through The Education Jungle'

As one of the CCLLEN's Strategic Goals is to 'Increase and improve parent and family engagement, especially at Years 7, 8, & 9 with education, training and pathways planning' it was appropriate and worthwhile for staff member Bev to attend this conference held, (appropriately?!) at the Melbourne Zoo on August 16th– 17th. A couple of comments:

From the President of Australian Council of State School Organisations: 'Communication is a challenge for schools and parents to enable engagement. Forces affecting schools and families include:

- Increasing reliance on technology
- The changing nature of work
- A more diverse population
- A service orientated society
- Family roles are becoming more flexible and fluid'

From a student representative: At the last Student Representative Council Congress a resolution was passed that 'The Government should provide some sort of resource to schools to help them better educate parents about the Victorian schooling system'!

## Parent Information Sessions – Primary to Secondary School

Starting secondary school is an important milestone for young people and their families. Research shows that 'Parental interest in their child's education is the single most powerful predictor of achievement by age 16'. (BECTA Study 2009) The CCLLEN organised for highly regarded education consultant Angie Wilcock from High Hopes Educational Services to deliver three workshops for district parents and carers. The objective of the workshops was to help parents to be able to support and assist their children to successfully make the transition from primary school through to secondary school. This was put in the context of other adolescent developmental changes occurring because of growth, hormonal changes, puberty and brain development. The sessions held in Echuca, Kyabram and Kerang were aimed at Grade 5/6 and Year 7 parents and guardians in particular.

Angie talked about the structure of secondary schools as opposed to primary schools. For example: more & new subjects, more & different teachers, moving between classrooms, new curricular, new study modes, new concepts of homework, new lines of communication and new 'rules'.

Various learning styles typically demonstrated by young people were discussed namely – auditory, visual and kinaesthetic, and ideas were given on how parents could recognise, address and work with these learning styles.

Some of the 'golden tips' for parents included:

- Make sure your child has a balanced life between work, play and rest.
- Develop a routine for work and play- and try to keep to it!
- Don't overload your child's week with too many commitments after school- make choices.

- Prioritise tasks, for example, organise your work into 'Urgent', 'Soon' and 'Later', (NOT in order of preference) and provide a role model to your child.
- Encourage the use of planners and diaries
- Encourage your child to make a start on an assignment as soon as they receive it. Don't DO your child's assignment but make sure they understand what THEY have to do. Help them with the process
- 'Chunking'- encourage your child to break down projects and assignments into smaller, more manageable tasks.
- Limit distractions for your children when they are working or studying. Ensure they have some personal space to do homework.
- If they must have music while studying try to ensure it is relaxing music- NOT loud and distracting.
- Promote a positive attitude to school and school work

The basic feedback message from the sessions was – 'We want more of the information and inspiration gained from these sessions'. 'Keep the communication lines personally open between schools and parents'. The CCLLEN will look to work towards facilitating this with parents and school communities.

See [CCLLEN](#) website for more information.



Angie Wilcock at the Kyabram session



Bev, CCLLEN, Angie & Coralie, MMLLEN at the Kerang session

Stay tuned, details soon!



### 'Education – Speak' Jargon Busters

What do the following acronyms stand for?

CRT	SSO
MCEEDCYA	KESO
PS	VSC
SRP	WWC

Answers on page 6



## Transitions and Pathways Network

Facilitated by the CCLLEN, approximately 20 people representing 10 regional primary and secondary schools attended a workshop entitled *'Successful Transitions – What does it Take?'* delivered by Angie Wilcock from High Hopes Educational Services. at 'Coriander', Echuca on August 2nd. Angie, in her down to earth, friendly, enthusiastic and engaging manner work shopped the vital time of transition from Primary to Secondary School. The point was emphasised that children who do not transition well are, on the whole, less successful in school, have more difficulty making friends and are more vulnerable to mental and other health issues.

This transition time was put in the context of developmental changes occurring in adolescence such as growth, hormonal changes, puberty and brain development. Participants found Angie's description of 'synaptic pruning' very enlightening. Synaptic pruning occurs mostly at the frontal lobe of the brain – the centre for decision making, planning, impulse control and consequence recognition – all very important things for the young learner!

The four major elements cited as being critical for successful transitions were communication, cooperation, consensus and commitment. Major areas of difference between primary and secondary systems are seen in administration, curriculum, learning & teaching and in social & personal areas.

Some great practical examples of how schools can help ease the transition process were given and, how in particular, teachers might help. The various learning styles of young people were discussed and ideas were given on how to address these learning styles.

In a fitting cameo, Jenny Mitchell from Northern District Community Health Services, presented on her 'Transition Memoirs' project. It involves current Year 7 students recalling their time of transition from Primary into Secondary School.

*Feedback from the session clearly indicated that there is strong interest for regular meetings between personnel from the two levels of schooling around the subject of primary to secondary transitions.*



Angie presenting to the group



Secondary and Primary Schools discussing transition strategies



Echuca South and 208 Primary Schools confer with Kyabram P-12 & St Augustine's P-12

## A culture of inclusion

### **Constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**

The Australian Government has appointed an Expert Panel on Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians. The Panel's task is to consult with the community and make recommendations by December 2011 on options for constitutional change that could be placed before the people at a future national referendum.

Currently not all citizens are treated equally under the Australian Constitution. The Constitution permits laws that discriminate on the basis of race.

The document gives no acknowledgement of the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation's history or our contemporary society.

Constitutional recognition would be a powerful symbol of the nation's desire to embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a full and equal part of the Australian nation.

A Public Discussion Paper is available at [www.youmeunity.org.au](http://www.youmeunity.org.au) The website also has information on making a submission, and details of community consultations across Australia.

## Kyabram P-12 College Work Experience

With CCLLEN organised funding from the Manufacturing & Engineering Skills Advisory Board's Careers in Manufacturing program, 15 Year 10 students from Kyabram P-12 College were recently able to spend a day at Qantas' Tullamarine Heavy Maintenance Facility and the Kangan Institute Training Hanger. Students found the day very informative- some of their comments included:



- Qantas provides great pay levels and support to apprentices
- Didn't realise there were so many different career opportunities in aeronautical
- Visiting the Kangan training facility provided a good insight into the apprentices training
- Sitting inside the cockpit of a brand new plane and talking with the engineer was awesome
- Looking over the mechanicals of the plane, seeing firsthand what you could be working on was great

## Beacon Foundation's Employer Interview Program

CCLLEN staff recently took part in the Employer Interview Program at Echuca College. Along with preparing a resume and a letter of application Year 10 students were given the opportunity to test their job interview skills with business community volunteers. EM Beacon Foundation's Executive Officer Rachel Collins said 'Mock Interviews are the stepping stone for each Year 10 student to build further employment networks on. It is great to see that the local & business community is supporting the students of this area in every way, and that Echuca Moama Beacon can deliver such a fantastic program.'

Pictured is CCLLEN's Workplace Learning Coordinator Alison Dunstan with student Kassidy Sellings. (Photo courtesy Riverine Herald)



## Minds and Education Forum: Enhancing Learning and Improving Outcomes – Focus on Mental Illness & Neurological Disorders.

Associate Professor Lisa Bourke, University of Melbourne, on the 'Challenges of Rural Secondary Students Achieving their Goals' - 18% of rural young people could be mentally vulnerable.

Disabilities faced and overcome by three amazing young panellists included epilepsy, low vision, unpredictable laughing, depression, alcoholism, sexual abuse, dyslexia, anorexia and bulimia.

Professor Eoin Killackey, University of Melbourne –onset of mental illness is most likely between the ages of 15 and 30. Most likely cause of death for young people relates to mental illness. Having a mental illness means likely to have a lower education level and this flows on to unemployment. Need guidelines to advise educators and support staff how best to help students with mental illness.

Julie Fry, Wodonga TAFE on the processes of learning for students with a learning disability (LD) -80% of people with a LD have difficulty with reading and writing eg dyslexia.

**Note that a learning disability (LD) is distinct from an intellectual disability. LD not related to IQ. Testing of those with LD's often shows normal or above average intelligence.**

Deborah Zang comments included- her own story of depression and anxiety. Diagnosis is important and can then embrace yourself. Dyslexia is the most common of the LD's. Disclosure is good. One in ten Australians estimated to have a form of LD. Some can be deemed to be gifted or talented. Students with LD's need identification, remediation, intervention and accommodation.

Brendan Hallinan from *Principal's Australia's Mind Matters Project* gives free PD to schools and conferences re building and sustaining mental health with a whole of school approach. Mind Matters is a mental health resource that is available [www.mindmatters.edu.au](http://www.mindmatters.edu.au)

Notes taken by Bev Werner , Bendigo May 10<sup>th</sup>

## Youth Partnerships



Youth Partnerships is a Victorian Government initiative aimed at improving the delivery of services to young people aged 10-18 who have disengaged from family, education or community or who at risk of doing so.

The overarching goals are:

1. Improving engagement with education and training, leading to an increase in the completion of Year 12 or equivalent.
2. Reducing the escalation of social, individual and behavioural problems for individual young people.

### What does it mean in Loddon Mallee Region?

The whole of Loddon Mallee region is covered by two demonstration sites for Youth Partnerships.

Demonstration sites are based on groupings of Local Government Areas.

- Campaspe is grouped with Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander, Macedon Ranges and Loddon for the Southern Loddon Mallee demonstration site.
- Gannawarra is grouped with Mildura, Swan Hill and Buloke for the Northern Loddon Mallee demonstration site.

Stakeholders from education, youth agencies, LLENs and Local Government have met to discuss Youth Partnerships and have agreed to common themes for the demonstration sites of:

- Place based governance to guide youth support and planning
- Integrated / streamlined service delivery
- Flexible learning options

There will be a small number of locally based projects spread across each demonstration site.

### Where will the local projects be?

Gannawarra Shire is looking to develop flexible learning options linked to one or both secondary schools, with the location still to be determined.

Campaspe Shire and Campaspe Cohuna LLEN believe there is a strong case for a local project in Campaspe. The entire Shire would not be feasible at this point so one location will be chosen. Data which demonstrates need, and a community or school's willingness, ability and readiness to participate will inform the decisions. Campaspe Shire, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and DEECD have started discussing this and will continue to do so and will involve services and schools.

The demonstration sites will trial approaches. Learnings from one site can be adapted and utilised elsewhere. This can readily happen across local government areas regardless of where the local project is based.

## Busting the Edu-Speak Jargon

<b>CRT</b>	Casual Replacement Teacher
<b>MCEEDCYA</b>	Ministerial Council of Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs
<b>PS</b>	Primary School
<b>SRP</b>	Student Resource Package
<b>SSO</b>	School Services Officer
<b>KESO</b>	Koorie Engagement Support Officer
<b>VSC</b>	Victorian Skills Commission
<b>WWC</b>	Working with Children Check



*Pat on the back for getting all 8 correct*

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