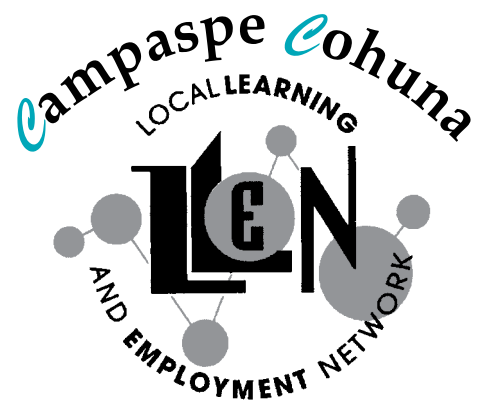


2014

REPORT



2014

Chairperson's Report

In what could be described as an unsettling period, I am pleased to be able to present a very positive report to our stakeholders.

Funding and State Government Elections were two side issues that could have been a big distracter to the board and employees of the CCLLEN in 2014 – but to our credit, I believe we were very fortunate to continue making positive impacts in the communities we represent.

One of the main factors we were able to achieve such things is due to the leadership of our Executive Officer, Anne Trickey and our dedicated staff, on behalf of the board I want to thank them immensely for their dedication and ongoing commitment to our aims.

2014 saw us as an organisation carry out several rounds of consultation with our stakeholders, regarding our work, and feedback on suggested future models that the previous State Government were proposing. I wish to acknowledge the support we were given by our stakeholders during this process, it is an aspect of our partnerships that we truly value.

One of the new projects the CCLLEN has been able to partner and broker on is the “Let’s Read” program, which is well on its way to being successfully delivered throughout the Shire of Campaspe. This program enables community organisations to connect with and support families to foster a love of reading from birth. The “Let’s Read” steering committee envisage that in the long term we may see the benefits of this program at our local primary schools, with young Preps having a better entry level reading skill than what they do now.

The CCLLEN has continued to work in close partnership on various projects throughout the year, and have further developed some very strong community partners in Echuca Regional Health and the Shire of Campaspe.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge, and the Annual VET Excellence awards are two of our ongoing projects that continue to go from strength to strength, both achieving great successes in 2014.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report this year and ask you to reflect on our commitment to the young people of our community and I trust you envisage it as positively as we do.

Kerrie Raglus
Chairperson



Executive Officer's Report

The CCLLEN has consolidated its work and expanded into new projects and activities during 2014. We have developed new partnerships and assisted mature partnerships to become self sustaining.

School Friendly Business is now operating in each of our major towns, with regular events and communications between schools and businesses. Two other LLENs are replicating the model in their regions and across the state several other LLENs have expressed strong interest in adopting it.

Early literacy has been a focus of two new projects as a foundation for school engagement in later childhood. Community Reading Days have brought primary school students into local business for book readings and examples of literacy at work. Let's Read Campaspe encourages parents to read to children from a very early age and provides them with resources and tips to help them.

A new partnership with Echuca Regional Health has led to a series of LEAP into Health events for secondary school students.

We have strengthened our close relationship with Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation through a Memorandum of Understanding where CCLLEN provides staffing to deliver their key events.

Our "flagship" events of the Murray River Culinary Challenge, the VET in Schools Excellence Awards and the Information Communication Technology careers days continue to grow.

Our team of staff remains the same with some changes to allocation of hours and roles. I commend and congratulate them all for their dedication and focus during another year of funding uncertainty. We continue to work together with a very positive attitude of "business as usual".

My thanks also to the Board of CCLLEN for their generosity in providing their time, support and advice.

We are securely funded for all contracts for 2015. Current indications are positive for ongoing funding for our main LLEN contract for 2016 -2018, although changes to its scope are anticipated. Details will be known later in 2015.

Anne Trickey
Executive Officer



What is the CCLLEN?

The CCLLEN is a grouping of organisations and individuals interested and involved in the wellbeing, education, training and employment of young people. Our core objective is to improve participation, engagement and attainment and transition outcomes for young people 10 –19 years. There are 31 LLENs across Victoria. The CCLLEN's geographic boundary is inclusive of the Shire of Campaspe and Cohuna in the Gannawarra Shire.

Government reforms at the end of 2009 resulted in a National Partnership between the Commonwealth and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in Victoria. LLENs were funded via this Partnership from 2010 to 2013. With the end of the National Partnership a new model maintained funding for 2014 with both governments separately contributing directly to each LLEN.

The CCLLEN's stakeholder group encompasses education and training providers, business and industry, community organisations, and parents and families. The CCLLEN undertakes the brokering of partnerships with these stakeholders to assist with the successful transitioning of our young people through education and training into employment. The age range of young people we work with is 10 to 19 year olds.

The CCLLEN holds contracts for four major programs -

The **School Business Community Partnership Brokers Program** negotiates and establishes lasting partnerships between schools, business, community groups and parents and families to improve education outcomes for young people.

The **Workplace Learning Coordinator** works with secondary schools, TAFEs, adult and community education providers and local employers to source hosts for work placements for school based apprenticeships and traineeships, structured workplace learning and work experience.

City Kids Experiencing Country Life provides all transport costs for Year 6 students in metropolitan based schools to visit and experience life in regional and rural Victoria. The CCLLEN also organises accommodation and all the activities for the camps. The City Kids Experiencing Country Life initiative is supported through the Victorian Government's Regional Growth Fund.

The **Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation** operates a careers program for Echuca College, Moama Anglican Grammar School and St Joseph's College, and has contracted CCLLEN to deliver key elements of the program.

2014 Committee Of Management

Category 1	Schools Kerrie Raglus - Rushworth P-12 College Chris Eeles - Echuca College Kate Fogarty - St. Joseph's College Trish Bradley - Kyabram P-12 College	4 positions
Category 2	TAFE Institutes or Universities with TAFE sectors Natalie Green - Bendigo TAFE	1 position
Category 3	Adult Community Education organisations Richards Francis - Campaspe College of Adult Education	1 position
Category 4	Other education and training organisations including private registered training organisations, universities and group training companies	1 position
Category 5	Trade Unions	1 position
Category 6	Employers/Peak employer organisations/Regional employer organisations and employment agencies Peter Williams - Tangled Garden Bookshop Belinda Williams - Williams HR Consultancy	4 positions
Category 7	Local Governments Simone Lambert - Shire of Campaspe Mark Arians - Gannawarra Shire	2 positions
Category 8	Other Community Agencies and organisations, Commonwealth and State government departments, School Focussed Youth Service, Adult, Community and Further Education Regional Councils, Regional Youth Councils, parent organisations etc Emma Brentnall - Campaspe Primary Care Partnership	2 positions
Category 9	Koori organisations, Peak Koori agencies and Regional Koori organisations Melva Johnson - WARMA Aboriginal Education Corporation	1 position
Category 10	Community Members Trish Martin	1 position
Category 11:	Nominated by the Committee who shall be a Community Member or a person associated with an Organisational Member	2 positions

Our People

Anne Trickey **Executive Officer**

Anne has worked with local schools through a variety of Australian Government funded programs (Jobs Pathways Programme and Career Advice Australia) since 2002, and with the CCLLEN since mid 2010. She has qualifications in Career Development, Partnering Practice, Governance, and Training and Assessment. Anne brings to the role management and leadership skills and a strong interest in the futures of young people.



Bev Werner **Partnership Broker**

Bev had a long career as a teacher in the TAFE system after initial years as a 'stay at home Mum'. She then worked with the Australian Government's Career Advice Australia program before joining the CCLLEN in 2010. Bev is particularly proud of the School Friendly Business initiative and believes that a community approach is important for the wellbeing and education of young people.



Jacq Campbell **Workplace Learning Coordinator**

Jacq has a strong background in hospitality, event management and training. Jacq commenced with CCLLEN in 2011 working on the VET in Schools Excellence Awards and the Murray River Culinary Challenge. In 2014 Jacq became a full time employee taking on the Workplace Learning Coordinator role.



Emily Jones **Office Administrator**

Emily began work at the CCLLEN in January 2013 as a trainee completing a Certificate IV in Business Administration. Before taking on this role she completed a School Based Apprenticeship at Rushworth P-12 College with a Certificate III in Business Administration. Emily completed her training in mid 2014 and is now our Office Administrator as well as assisting on many projects.



Alison Dunstan **Workplace Learning Coordinator**

Alison first worked at the CCLLEN in 2006 as Office Manager. After venturing off to work on various Australian Government funded programs (Work for the Dole and Career Advice Australia), she came full circle and re-joined the CCLLEN in 2010 as Workplace Learning Coordinator. In 2014 Alison changed to part time with CCLLEN and took on teaching VCAL at Bendigo TAFE three days per week.



Cheryl Sweeney **Project Officer**

Cheryl has worked as a Health and Physical Education teacher in Kyabram for over 25 years with a leading teacher role for six years, and as a trainer at TAFE and a relief teacher in Echuca. Cheryl's major projects for CCLLEN are City Kids Experiencing Country Life, School Friendly Businesses in Kyabram and the Beacon program in Echuca Moama. Cheryl is currently also a project worker for Kyabram Youth Partnerships and a trainer at Kyabram Community and Learning Centre.



Brian Wilkinson **Project Officer**

Brian has worked in Education for over 35 years as a teacher and Principal. Brian has responsibility for a range of projects including the Koori Working Group, School Friendly Businesses in Rochester and Rushworth, Community Reading Days and the Agriculture & Horticulture Careers excursions.



Progress on Strategic Plan

This is a summary of our actions throughout the year. Further details on some projects are provided later in this report.

Goal 1: Improve post compulsory education and transition outcomes for young people

Strategic Actions included:

- Youth Partnerships projects in Kyabram, Gannawarra and Southern Mallee
- Professional Development and resources for teachers and agencies – A Framework for Understanding Poverty (Workshop 2), and Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Participation in and support of Campaspe Careers Professional Learning Network
- Participation in Gateways 4 Sustainable Communities
- Partnerships with Workplace Learning Coordinator on VET Awards, Murray River Culinary Challenge and Kyabram Industry Open Day
- School Leavers Guide
- Support of Youth Connections and engagement with their staff
- Support to Beacon Foundation activities
- Projects in partnership with School Focused Youth Service and Wellbeing Clusters

Indicators:

VET in Schools enrolment, 2009 = 658, 2010 = 609, 2011 = 770, 2012 = 643, 2013 = 684

VCAL enrolment, 2009 = 130, 2010 = 225, 2011 = 201, 2012 = 204, 2013 = 161

Re-engagement through Youth Connections, 2010 = 55 outcomes, 2011 = 76 outcomes, 2012 = outcomes, 2013 = 79 outcomes, 2014 = 64 outcomes

Goal 2: Improve indigenous student (10-19) transitions and attainment

Strategic Actions included:

- Engagement with key indigenous networks including Campaspe Aboriginal Health Partnership Group, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, Njernda, Koorie Engagement Support Officers and Koorie Educators
- Facilitate working group on Aboriginal education, employment and economic development for young people for the Campaspe Aboriginal Health Partnership Group
- Assist Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group with re-print of “Teaching Koorie Students” booklet
- Koorie homework group
- Support for Koorie students to undertake work experience
- Partnership with Workplace Learning Coordinator to deliver pre-employment workshops to Koorie students
- Partnership with Kaiela Institute to gain after school employment for Koorie secondary school students
- Health careers day for indigenous students

Indicator: *Number of indigenous students completing Year 12 in 2010 = 6, in 2011 = 7, 2012 = 7, 2013 = 5, 2014 = 9*

Goal 3: Improve employability skills of students through enhanced careers and transitions and workplace learning programs

Strategic Actions included:

- Student Work Placement and Work Experience Log Books distributed to schools, TAFE and ACE providers. Employability skills incorporated into the log books.
- Survey of employability skills completed by local employers
- School Friendly Business initiative now has 209 businesses participating
- Kyabram 'Day in Industry' where 150 Year 9 students from both Kyabram schools each visited three local businesses to explore the range of careers available
- 'Upload Your Future' events showcasing careers in Information and Communication Technology. Two events held in Kyabram and Echuca with interactive workshops, guest speakers and panels of young workers
- 'LEAP into Health' events at Echuca Regional Health for students from local schools
- 'VET Step Up Day' for 120 Echuca College VET students to visit 21 businesses and learn about local career opportunities
- 'VCAL Industry Immersion Day' for St Joseph's College with 23 students and 12 businesses participating
- Support to Beacon Foundation
- Agriculture and Horticulture careers excursions for Rushworth and Cohuna students
- Careers and employability skills related activities such as Beacon's careers expo, industry speakers, tours and mock interviews
- Support for Cohuna Secondary College's careers expo
- Assistance with mock interview programs at several schools
- Presentation of Interview Tech Sessions to prepare students for mock interviews

Indicator: *Number of businesses engaged in School Industry Partnerships, 2010 = 24, 2011 = 40, 2012 = 161, 2013 = 118, 2014 = 182*

Goal 4: Increase and improve parent and family engagement with education, training and pathways planning.

Strategic Actions included:

- Focus on family engagement through parents' workplaces via the implementation of School Friendly Business Campaign -
 - o Parent information on supporting their child's learning placed in staff rooms of school friendly businesses
 - o Presentations to staff at school friendly businesses
- School engagement and careers related events for students at Kyabram, Rochester, Rushworth and Echuca
- Gap Year Expo for Year 12 students and their families
- Let's Read Campaspe to encourage and support families to read to babies and toddlers

Indicator: *Parent attendance at events with CCLLEN involvement, 2010 = 522, 2011 = 596, 2012 = 118, 2013 = 94, 2014 = 210*

Although our indicator is parent attendance at events, our strategy is now aimed at reaching parents in other ways.

Goal 5: Improve and increase the partnership and connections between education and training providers with community groups to support and wellbeing, education and transition outcomes of young people (10-19).

- Transitioning Youth Partnerships projects to sustainable models with partners contributing to costs
- Support to Southern Mallee Youth Partnerships local government members to collaborate on youth strategies and actions
- Transition of the facilitation of the Campaspe Youth Services Network to the Shire of Campaspe
- Database of youth services providers maintained and distributed to stakeholders
- Support of School Focused Youth Service including –
 - o 'It's My School Too' anti-bullying program in Echuca government schools
 - o EARS program at Echuca South Primary School
 - o 'It's My School Too' anti-bullying program in Echuca government schools
- Youth Services Directory provided to students and agencies
- Engagement with networks such as Network of Disability Services, Kyabram Service Providers Network, Chances for Change
- Community Reading Days held in six towns with 23 businesses participating
- New partnership with Echuca Regional Health to raise awareness of careers in health sector
- New partnership to implement Campaspe Let's Read

Indicator: Number of new partnerships, 2010 = 2, 2011 = 2, 2012 = 1, 2013 = 3, 2014 = 2

Local government strategies which include CCLLEN priorities = 2



Consultation with CCLLEN Members and Partners

In 2014 each LLEN was asked to “consult widely with its members and partners and provide consolidated feedback on how the current functions of LLENs can support the Local Area Networks to be established by the Victorian government in 2014.”

This is the report CCLLEN provided as its consolidated feedback.

Purpose: To review and provide consolidated feedback from the CCLLEN area on how the current functions of LLENs can support Area Based Governance to be established by the Victorian Government in 2014.

Many Members and Partners of CCLLEN have been consulted by Synergistiq and the Allen Consulting Group in their Reviews of Youth Partnerships and the LLEN Model of Network and Partnership Support. The Reports on the two Reviews have been drawn on for this report.

The three Youth Partnerships Projects that CCLLEN is engaged with involve a great deal of consultation including discussions about roles and functions. Information provided by the members of those Partnerships is included in this report.

Other consultations have occurred during meetings and one-on-one conversations with a variety of stakeholders.

A number of themes emerged during these consultations. These are listed with relevant comments.

LLEN functions that can support Local Area Networks

Independent broker role

“The independence and incorporated association status of LLENs are critical to the effectiveness of the LLEN model.” (The Allen Review)

“The CCLLEN provides the neutral link between all partners to provide a brokerage role. The aims and objectives of all partners are similar, however because of the nature and the structure of the partners, especially schools, they are not in a position to actively promote and articulate a joint strategy to support all partners to achieve their common goals. CCLLEN plays a critical role in this community.” (Stakeholder comment from CCLLEN 2012 Partnership Survey)

The independence of the CCLLEN enables us to partner and negotiate with stakeholders openly and transparently. We have no “vested interest” or financial reward for the work that we do, and our partners value this. The independence extends to our neutrality between stakeholders who have financial interests, and to our honouring the confidentiality of partners and stakeholders. As an example we regularly facilitate apprenticeship information sessions at which two rival group training organisations jointly present. Through CCLLEN they are able to share and cooperate in providing a common message.

Strategic thinking and planning

Key Functions of Area Based Governance (Local Area Networks) includes establishing an annual plan, linked to identified community needs and whole-of-government priorities, outlining the priority issues.

CCLLEN has a Strategic Plan which is reviewed and updated annually. The Strategic Plan is linked to the CCLLEN Environmental Scan that identifies community needs and priorities.

LLENs help other organisations and groups with Strategic Planning and thinking. The CCLLEN has been involved with helping several groups develop Strategic Plans, Memorandums of Understanding or Terms of Reference.

Policy awareness and understanding

LLENs are well informed on government priorities and policies, both State and Commonwealth, which enables LLENs to promote policies, initiatives and programs, and encourage stakeholder engagement.

Local media contact CCLLEN for comment on relevant policies and government announcements. CCLLEN plays a role in informing the community and stakeholders on government objectives.

The Allen Review notes that “Stakeholders ... identified that without the LLENs there would be a loss of strategic overview ...”

Environmental Scan

The CCLLEN Environmental Scan includes data and information on our region’s population, demographics, economy, skills needs, education profile, existing youth programs and services, and local issues. The Scan informs the CCLLEN Strategic Plan.

The CCLLEN Environmental Scan is a community resource which is made available to Stakeholders, Members and Partners.

Creating partnerships

The members of the Kyabram Youth Partnerships Project Management Group have regularly acknowledged the role the CCLLEN played in creating and developing the partnership. This was most recently affirmed by the lead agency in the Partnership, Kyabram Community Learning Centre, at a meeting in April 2014.

The Synergistiq Review identified that key factors in Youth Partnerships project establishment and delivery included:

- Building on existing frameworks
- Using evidence to inform both project establishment and ongoing delivery
- Engaging stakeholders
- Engaging students in FLO programs

The CCLLEN was instrumental in the first three elements listed above. Engaging students has been the most recent piece of work and has been undertaken by the stakeholders who work directly with young people.

The following responses are from consultations with 43 stakeholders in the Southern Mallee Youth Partnerships Project. The consultations were held during 2013.

50% of stakeholders interviewed stated that they naturally connect with a LLEN. Many of them recognise the LLENs as having a formal governance structure.

43% of stakeholders said they would want LLEN around the table if they were developing a dynamic and responsive place based governance model.

53% said that there are existing governance structures that could be adapted to guide the needs of young people.

Commitment, time and resources were identified most often as the things organisations would need to invest in a place based governance model.

68% of respondents said that coordination/secretariat resources would be required. LLENs and Local Government were the two most popular choices for leading or co-leading a governance model at 34% and 37% respectively. The Education sector was selected by 11% of respondents. Some stakeholders who favoured LGAs leading the model also questioned whether LGAs have the capacity and resources to do so.

The following statistics are from the CCLLEN 2012 Partnership Survey (40 respondents).

94.9% of respondents agreed that “Our LLEN provides valuable support”

89.8% agreed that “Our LLEN has supported the partnership to achieve our goals”

89.7% agreed that “Our partnership is addressing a real need in the community”

92.3% agreed that “Our partnership is contributing to improved education outcomes for young people”

88.5% agreed that “Our LLEN has helped our school to become more engaged with our community” (for schools only)

“The work of the LLEN has been central to establishing and sustaining this partnership. Their work is of a very high quality and they display best practice skills and understanding re partnership work. This is true of both this particular partnership and others that this LLEN ... are involved in. Their work in building community partnerships between DEECD and community partners is essential to current work and future directions described in the DEECD Strategic Plan 2012-16.”
(Stakeholder comment from CCLLEN 2012 Partnership Survey)

“CCLLEN has been a driving force in our partnership and has developed very strong relationships with other organisations in our partnerships.”
(Stakeholder comment from CCLLEN 2012 Partnership Survey)

“The LLEN could be the vehicle for many links that we are not able to provide.”
(School Principal’s response to consultation, April 2014)

Data – collecting it, collating it, sharing it

LLENs conduct local research or collaborate with other LLENs for research over wider areas. Such research is determined by local and shared needs for information and solutions.

LLENs also distribute government reports and data to stakeholders and draw attention to locally relevant information in such reports.

Whenever it is appropriate and permissible, LLENs share data with stakeholders and with other LLENs.

“The CCLLEN provided relevant data to the Committee 4 Echuca Moama to support a submission into research into post compulsory education in Echuca Moama.” Committee 4 Echuca Moama board member, response to consultation, April 2014)

Local presence, contacts and knowledge

The size of LLEN regions means that LLENs can have a strong presence in their communities. CCLLEN staff are local residents with relevant backgrounds in education, training or wellbeing, and strong connections with the local communities. We know the people in our communities and we know a great deal about the connections between other organisations and their staff.

In rural communities key staff may move between organisations. LLENs can maintain the connection with such key people and enhance networks and knowledge sharing. Such links across organisations and sectors can help break down silos and enhance collaboration.

“... the strong networking you have done with many like minded organisations, including local government, community sector, businesses and the large turnout you get from these at your events and how in turn you get invited to their events.” (CCLLEN Member, response to consultation, April 2014)

Engagement of local stakeholders

Our local presence as community members assists with stakeholder engagement. Our stakeholders know us as individual people with particular skills. We have built trust and credibility over several years as an organisation and as individuals. We are in a position where stakeholders approach us for assistance or to be a partner in a project. Generally the approach is looking for expertise or knowledge that we are known to have.

We have successfully engaged with businesses with almost 200 local employers committing time and expertise to our School Friendly Business initiative. Through this we are able to connect schools and businesses in ways which benefit young people.

“... the excellent [School Friendly Business] campaign – your presence in all the schools and businesses and even homes.” (CCLLEN Member, response to consultation, April 2014)

Collaborative role

As a neutral broker LLENs can collaborate without financial self-interest impinging on the relationship. Stakeholders are willing to work with a LLEN because we don't represent any kind of competition. They will even initiate contact to discuss opportunities. We can bring together stakeholders who are naturally competitors and provide an environment in which they can collaborate by both working with us on the same project. We can enhance our neutrality by making clear to a stakeholder that we wish to involve both them and their competitor in a mutually beneficial way. Our success with this approach has resulted in positive and practical co-operation and a clear, consistent and unbiased message to the target audience in the community.

Structure of LLEN boards

LLEN boards provide a useful template to inform the structure of Area Based Governance models. The LLENs are mandated to have representation from various sectors of the community including education, training, employers, local government, community agencies, Koori organisations and community members. Such a diverse and broad based board membership provides a diversity of viewpoints and a range of skills and interests. A vital requirement for board members is a strong interest in enhancing the futures of young people.

At the February 2014 CCLLEN Board Meeting during discussion for this consultation a board member commented regarding the amount of consultation that has already occurred, “How much evidence do we need to provide to show them this model works?”

‘Upload Your Future’ ICT Careers Events

ICT IT’S Everywhere: Information Communication Technology events:
Echuca College & Kyabram P-12 College



At these events Year 9 students participated in a series of hands-on workshops to learn about the qualifications, skills and interests that are required to succeed in the booming global technology sector. The events featured ICT professionals, higher education and local industry representatives providing practical insights into information communication technology studies and careers.

Technology in areas ranging from robotics and electronic engineering, agriculture, the building industry, iPad applications, games technology, social and digital media, multimedia cartooning, to the hardware that makes a computer tick was featured in a fun and interactive way. Great prizes, including an iPad, were given away at each event.

Organisations that participated in the events included La Trobe University Bendigo and Bundoora campuses, Advance Computing, GOTAFE, Splatoon Cartoons, Realm Building Design and Community Telco Australia.

Student feedback comments included: ‘You learnt heaps about technology, very eye opening’. ‘I liked exploring all the possibilities of careers that involve ICT’. One workshop presenter commented: ‘As always, a great day - engaged and switched on students!’

A key message from these days was that starting with a technology course really can take a student’s career anywhere and earn them good money.

Congratulations must go to Echuca College’s Beacon Leaders who did a great job as MC’s for the Echuca event.

These ICT events, facilitated and funded by the CCLLEN, are great example of schools connecting with industry and education providers to assist with the career development of our young people.



School Friendly Businesses



The School Friendly Business program has continued to grow from strength to strength with its aim to promote and enhance the links between businesses, parents and schools for the ultimate benefit our young people. Two hundred and nine businesses across Echuca Moama, Kyabram, Cohuna, Rochester and Rushworth are now on board. Congratulations to Cohuna District Hospital on being the 200th organisation to join the initiative.

Rushworth officially became part of School Friendly Business in March. Councillor Adrian Weston, representing the Shire of Campaspe Waranga Ward, spoke of the importance of the School Friendly Business initiative in Rushworth and surrounding towns. Bradley Moyle, Principal at the P-12 College indicated that from a College and educational perspective, the launch of the School Friendly Business initiative was a great opportunity to recognise, formalise and extend partnerships that supported students. Cate Fraser, Principal at St Mary's Primary school mentioned the old African proverb – 'It takes a village to raise a child', and how the School Friendly Business initiative links schools with businesses in many different ways.

2014 saw School Friendly Businesses across the region take part in numerous student focused activities and events including: workplace learning placements, student tours, Days in Industry, the Gap Year Expo, Community Reading Days, the Murray River Culinary Challenge and careers events such as LEAP into Health and Information Communication Technology Forums.

School Friendly Business semester calendars continue to prove very popular. They create a community awareness of important school events and activities and are a helpful planning tool for businesses and schools alike.

Business breakfasts, morning teas and lunches were again held across the region with guest presenters on topics of mutual interest to schools and business. The importance of mentoring in the workplace with employers and young employees sharing their ideas and experiences was the theme for events in May. In November business and school attendees heard from school Principals and student leaders on their highlights from 2014 and insights into the 2015 school year. Centrelink representatives presented on the subject of what employers need to know about changes coming for young job seekers. These events have the added benefit of enabling important networking opportunities between schools and businesses.

School Friendly Business continues to provide support to working parents and guardians to be engaged in their children's education. Literature is provided for participating businesses' staff rooms and waiting areas. Information has been provided on the importance of school attendance, how parents can help their children making career choices and tips for preparing them for the future world of work. Copies of the 2015 Guide to VCE, VCAL and Apprenticeships and Traineeships 'Where to Now' have also been given out to businesses.

Participation in the School Friendly Business initiative is open to all businesses in the CCLLEN region which covers the Shire of Campaspe and Cohuna in the Gannawarra Shire. It is a great opportunity to demonstrate corporate social responsibility and membership is free. The CCLLEN thanks all School Friendly Businesses for their preparedness to work positively with our schools and young people.



Indigenous Working Party

Once again it has been a very busy period for the Indigenous Working Party and we are very pleased with what has been achieved. With the assistance of Chris Giblin from the Kaiela Institute we now have many indigenous students working in mainstream positions throughout the town. Presently Chris has helped to place students in part time positions at Bunnings, Coles, Woolworths, Big W, McDonald's and various cafes around town. It is really encouraging seeing so many gain employment.

The CCLLEN has been supporting schools by running work ready programs at both Echuca College and St Joseph's College. These programs have been focused on Indigenous students in Year 9. The program has involved members of the Bunnings team talking to the students about how to present themselves for an interview, what employers are looking for in a worker and what to expect when you start in a job. The Shire of Campaspe also took a session on interview techniques. The students were informed on how to present themselves at an interview and what types of questions they may be given. At the end of these sessions all students participated in mock interviews. At the conclusion of the work ready program all students had developed a resume, participated in a mock interview and were given a list of businesses that were looking for part time staff. All in all it was a very successful program.

The CCLLEN continues to support the school homework centre for indigenous students. As the year progressed the number of students attending increased. Most students attending were secondary aged.

The Warma Education Aboriginal Corporation booklet "Teaching Koorie Students" is in the final stages of being updated and will be re launched in 2015.



2014 VET IN SCHOOL

CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN VET STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2014



— BONNIE SIMPSON —

Home School: St Augustine's College

VET Subject: Business Studies

Workplacement: M&S Group Accounting

Training Organisation:

Kyabram Community Learning Centre



On Wednesday night we celebrated the outstanding achievements of Vocational Education & Training (VET) students within our regional schools at an Awards Night at the Moama Bowling Club.

Around 500 secondary school students are enrolled in VET subjects and School Based Apprenticeships in our region. 64 finalists were presented with certificates during the awards ceremony, with

winners announced in 20 categories. Organised by the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network (CCLLEN), the night was a great success with more than 240 guests. Attendees included students and their families, schools, teachers, host employers and sponsoring businesses. Students are nominated for the Awards by their VET teachers and trainers and must have completed a

What is VET?

VET, or Vocational Education and Training, refers to a nationally recognised vocational certificate and can be undertaken by students as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) studies. A VET subject includes both a theoretical and an applied "hands-on" component. Students undertake VET for a variety of reasons.

A student may be looking to enter the workforce upon completion of Year 12 and successful completion of a VET subject is an advantage when applying for an apprenticeship or that first job. Also, students headed for University may find the "hands-on" component of VET a welcome contrast to an academic schedule, and the work skills gained are beneficial across the board.

A vital component of a VET subject is Structured Workplace Learning. Students are hosted by a wide range of local employers and undertake structured on the job training during which they are expected to master a designated set of skills and competencies related to their course.

FINALISTS IN CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN VET

Campaspe PCP Allied Health Awards

Caitlin Brown
Leonie Gloster
Samantha Rule
Hailey Lemin

Campaspe Cohuna LLEN Animal Studies Award

Meg Cooke

Paul Weller

Automotive Award

Tannum Foley
Daniel Clements

Moama Village Pharmacy Beauty Award

Lily Bryans
Madeline Clark-Grundy

Dean Walton Master Builder

Building and Construction Award

Brenton Purtill
Ryan Burt
Patrick Furley
Tyler Phillips
Cooper Neil
Austin Robinson

William Hay

Lachlan Hall

Harry Ogden

Zac Wetton

Sheridan Partners

Business Award

Bonnie Simpson

Community Living and

Respite Services Children

Services Award

Teagan Hore

Hannah Schwab

Isaac Duffy

Campaspe Cohuna LLEN

Dance Award

Andrea SanDiego

Catherine Gillie

Ireland Hayes

Finella O'Conner

Eliza Schwab

Abbey McNair

St. Josephs College

Education Support Award

Arley McDougal

Mikala Todd

Bendigo TAFE, Echuca

Electrotechnology Award

ALLIED HEALTH AWARD WINNER



— HAILEY LEMIN —

Home School

Rushworth P-12 College

Workplacement:

G.V Health

Training Organisation:

GO TAFE Shep



ANIMAL STUDIES AWARD WINNER



— MEG COOKE —

Home School

Cohuna Secondary College

Workplacement:

Paul Clavin Vets

Training Organisation:

GO TAFE



AUTOMOTIVE AWARD WINNER



— TANNUM FOLEY —

Home School

Rochester Secondary College

Workplacement:

Gaffey's Hire

Training Organisation:

Echuca College



BEAUTY AWARD WINNER



— MADELEINE CLARK-GRUNDY —

Home School

Echuca College

Workplacement:

Morsnips Hair and Beauty

Training Organisation:

Bendigo TAFE, Echuca



BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD WINNER



— ZAC WETTON —

Home School

St Joseph's College

Workplacement:

Dean Walton-Master Builder

Training Organisation:

Echuca College



ENGINEERING AWARD WINNER



— ALEXANDER BAUMANN —

Home School

Rochester Secondary College

Workplacement:

Murray Goulburn

Training Organisation:

Echuca College



EVENTS MANAGEMENT AWARD WINNER



— KIANDRA POLLOCK —

Home School

St Joseph's College

Workplacement:

St Joseph's College

Training Organisation:

St Joseph's College



EQUINE AWARD WINNER



— EMILY CLYMO —

Home School

Cohuna Secondary College

Workplacement:

Bendigo Equine Hospital

Training Organisation:

GO TAFE



HOSPITALITY AWARD WINNER



— LUKE DUSINA —

Home School

Echuca College

Workplacement:

Echuca Workers & Services Club

Training Organisation:

Bendigo TAFE, Echuca



MUSIC AWARD WINNER



— ELLA SPIZZICA —

Home School

Rochester Secondary College

Workplacement:

Mini Maestros

Training Organisation:

Echuca College



LS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

work placement in the industry to be eligible. Host employers provide reports on individual student performance.

Nominated students submit their resume and attend an interview with a panel of judges. The process is a good preparation for entering the workforce. As in previous years the judges were impressed by the outstanding calibre of the candidates.

Anne Trickey, Executive Officer of CCLLEN congratulated all involved.

"The annual Awards Night celebrates the achievements of young people and acknowledges the support of our local businesses in providing authentic and quality work placements for our students."

VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014

Lachlan Stacey
Jak McMillan
Foodmach Engineering Award
Sam Brown
Bradley John
Jacob Glass
Hugh Macague
Alexander Baumann
Dylan Robertson
Matthew Ryan
Billabong Ranch Equine Award
Emily Clymo
St. Josephs College Events Management Award
Kiantra Pollock
Moama Bowling Club Hospitality Award
Jazmyne Weatherhead
Luke Dusina
Angelica Dipasupil
Echuca College Regional VETIS Program Music Award
Kiesha Coulson
Tegan Dinsdale

Luke Sciotto
Ella Spizzica
Jessica Wills
Drew Walker
Brenton King
Murray Mallee Training Plumbing Award
Daniel Newton
Bendigo Bank Public Safety Award
Jake Adams
Sam Griffiths
Riverine Herald Sport and Recreation Award
Rhianon McIntyre
Harry Lloyd
CVGT School Based Apprentice/Trainee Award
Tom Hay
Jack Dye
Cody West
Anthony Newmann
Jaxon McLeod

Australian School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships

A School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT) is a combination of secondary school, paid work and vocational training. SBATs are available in a wide variety of industries and involve a contract of training and paid employment. Typically, a student is employed in the workplace one day per week, and attends school the other four days.

Alison Dunstan, Workplace Learning Coordinator with CCLLEN, comments "School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships are a 'win win' situation for both the student and the employer.

Students gain a nationally recognised qualification and valuable experience in the workplace. Employers contribute to the career development of a young person, and gain an extra pair of hands in a very cost effective manner".

On completion of the SBAT an employer may offer full time employment to the young person who has already proved their value.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICE/TRAINEE OF THE YEAR 2014



— TOM HAY —

Home School: Cohuna Secondary College

Workplacement: Claas Harvest Centre, Echuca

Training Organisation:
Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Certificate: Certificate III
Automotive Mechanical
Technology



BUSINESS AWARD WINNER



— BONNIE SIMPSON —

Home School
St Augustine's College

Workplacement:
M&S Accounting

Training Organisation:
Kyaloram Community Learning Centre



CHILDREN'S SERVICES AWARD WINNER



— ISAAC DUFFY —

Home School
Echuca College

Workplacement:
Interreach

Training Organisation:
Echuca College



DANCE AWARD WINNER



— FINELLA O'CONNOR —

Home School
St Joseph's College

Workplacement:
i-Dance Echuca

Training Organisation:
Echuca College



EDUCATION SUPPORT AWARD WINNER



— MIKALA TODD —

Home School
St Joseph's College

Workplacement:
Echuca East Primary School

Training Organisation:
St Joseph's College



ELECTROTECHNOLOGY AWARD WINNER



— LACHLAN STACEY —

Home School
St Joseph's College

Workplacement:
Switched On Electronics

Training Organisation:
Bendigo TAFE, Echuca



PLUMBING AWARD WINNER



— DANIEL NEWTON —

Home School
Rushworth P-12 College

Workplacement:
Darryl Harrison Plumbing

Training Organisation:
GO TAFE



PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNER



— JAKE ADAMS —

Home School
St Joseph's College

Workplacement:
Lockington CFA

Training Organisation:
St Joseph's College



SPORT AND RECREATION AWARD WINNER



— RHIANON MCINTYRE —

Home School
Rochester Secondary College

Workplacement: Splash 'n' Learn
to Swim Peak Lifestyle & Personal
Training

Training Organisation:
Echuca College



CCLLEN's School Friendly Business initiative is aimed at enhancing business and school relationships for the benefit of all.

This includes recognising local businesses for the support they give to young people in their journey through school and into further education and employment.

VET in Schools host employers and Awards sponsors are demonstrating ways of being School Friendly.

We thank both hosts and sponsors for their contribution to local young people.

Youth Partnerships

Youth Partnerships involves designing and testing new ways for youth services across all sectors to work together more collaboratively to support vulnerable young people aged 10-18 years. Local agencies are best-placed to know local needs, what works 'on-the-ground' in supporting young people, and what gaps and issues in service provision exist. Youth Partnerships aims to engage local agencies in the process, and build local capacity for enduring collaboration and service integration to better support young people.

The key goals of Youth Partnerships are to:

- Improve engagement in education and training; and
- Reduce the escalation of problems for individual young people.

Government funding for Youth Partnerships ended in June 2014, however the three projects that CCLLEN has involvement in are continuing with other sources of funding, including financial contributions from partners. This is compelling evidence of the value the partners see in the work.

Kyabram Youth Partnership

After the funding of the Youth Partnerships project ceased in June 2014, the Kyabram Youth Partnerships members and School Focused Youth Service committed funds to continue for 12 months the work developed during the project including 'Open Pathways' and the 'Flexible Learning Options' programs.

Governance: Nine partners signed a MoU in November 2014, with five signed Affiliate Members. A strategic plan with three main objectives has been put into place for 12 months. Two groups continue to meet regularly with the Management Group managing and overseeing the program and the Operations Team operating at the ground level case managing the referral system and planning the Flexible Learning programs.

Open Pathways is an integrated referral system based on a 'no wrong door' policy. This means when the young person presents to a service or is identified by an organisation in our partnership, the other services needed are brought to the young person in a 'wrap around' service.

This holistic approach ensures the young person receives the required services and is case managed by our local services with the purpose of supporting them to reduce their issues and barriers and help them re-engage with their learning. Case management and a shared care planning process is incorporated into our regular Operations Team meetings.

Flexible Learning Options (FLO) programs aims for the disengaged young person to improve attendance, re-engage with their learning, improve personal skills and connect with the school and wider community.

'Monday Mania at the Fauna Park' is an early intervention program for Grade 5-7 students 'at risk' of disengaging with their learning. This animal based program is an exciting educational experience, away from the traditional classroom. The children learn responsibility and respect for others through co-operative learning and have the opportunity to improve their skills in reading and writing, organisation, research and oral presentation.

The 'Go with the FLO' four week program targets Year 8-11 students and includes modules from the 'Coaching Young People for Success' program, personal development and work ready skills. This prepares them to go onto an individualised flexible learning program, tailored to suit their strengths and interests. This may include work placement or other activities suited to the individual's passions. As a result the young person may trigger a renewed interest in their learning and re-connect with their school or training organisation.

Gannawarra Youth Partnership

The Gannawarra project provides a flexible learning program for students from Cohuna Secondary College and Kerang Technical High School. Together the two schools have sufficient students to operate the program.

Students undertook Certificate in General Education with Murray Mallee Training one day per week, and one day per week engaged in a range of programs that assisted them to build their vocational qualifications. Such options included modules from Cert II Horticulture as well as working toward first aid certificates and red card qualifications.

Outcomes from the program include improved engagement and school attendance, and students' confidence, behaviour, teamwork and attitude to teachers have all improved greatly. Previous participants have gained employment.

CCLLEN, Murray Mallee LLEN, School Focused Youth Service and the schools are continuing to fund the program although its format will be reduced to one day per week.

Southern Mallee Youth Partnership

The Southern Mallee project investigated a sustainable governance model for youth services across the Local Government Areas in the Southern Mallee region. This will have the capacity to inform and guide future funding for youth services to enable better collaboration and more comprehensive service delivery.

The work has brought together four Local Government Areas, three LLENs and Northern District Community Health Services. From meetings and discussions with stakeholders a report on preferred governance models was prepared and distributed. Mapping of key youth services across the Southern Mallee was undertaken. The Youth Partnership encouraged local governments to collaborate on youth strategies.

The work completed so far will inform the new Child and Youth Area Partnership for the Mallee area.



Murray River Culinary Challenge

The Murray River Culinary Challenge is an industry standard cooking competition for Vocational Education and Training (VET) students enrolled in a Hospitality Training Package. The main aims of the Murray River Culinary Challenge are to promote Vocational Education and Training in schools, promote hospitality as a career pathway, and better align secondary school hospitality training with industry requirements.



The Murray River Culinary Challenge is a three tiered competition. At the school level, students compete individually to vie for a spot in the Regional Final. The two top scoring students from each school are paired and compete as a team in the Regional Final, and the top scoring team then progress to the Grand Final. Menus in each level of the competition become progressively more difficult and are designed for students to be able to demonstrate their skills learnt during their Hospitality training.

Over 195 VET Hospitality students from 24 schools throughout the Murray River region demonstrated their culinary skills in hot pursuit of the 2014 Challenge title. Five regions participated in the Challenge: Campaspe, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wangaratta and Wodonga.



In the Campaspe region, a total of 32 students from Echuca College, Kyabram P-12 College, Rochester Secondary College, Rushworth P-12 College and St Joseph's College competed in the Challenge. VETiS Hospitality students in Echuca and Rochester are trained by Bendigo TAFE, and students in Kyabram and Rushworth receive their training at GO TAFE Shepparton.

Each level of the competition is judged by industry representatives in each region. This year, George Santos from Moama Bowling Club, Barry Moyle and Brendan Mullane from Moama RSL, Dave Hollomby from Cock'n'Bull Boutique Hotel, Lynden Goulding and Dean Jacobs from Radcliffe's provided their culinary expertise in judging the various levels of the competition in the Campaspe region.

Schools represented in the Grand final were Rochester Secondary College (representing Campaspe Region), Cobram Secondary College (Shepparton Region), St Mary MacKillop College (Swan Hill region), Wangaratta High School (Wangaratta region) and Tallangatta Secondary College (Wodonga region).

Teams had two and a half hours to present four serves of an entrée, main and dessert from a very challenging menu. Grand Final judges, from across the regions, were Carol Lenaz (GO TAFE), George Santos (Moama Bowling Club), Rebecca Hart (Murray Downs Golf and Country Club), Megan Knapp (Pure Taste/The Centre), and Brett Dobson (Mitchelton Winery)

The Grand Final was hosted by Wangaratta region at Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta. The evening prior to the Competition saw participants at Brown Brothers Winery enjoying a tour of the state of the art kitchens by Executive Chef, Douglas Elder. A special dinner was served to all students, judges, parents and support staff. It was a memorable event.

The Grand Final was hotly contested with truly amazing food plated up for the hard working judges to taste and score.

Congratulations to the students from St. Mary MacKillop College, Swan Hill who were the overall winners on the day. Swan Hill now hold the perpetual trophy, which features a slab of Murray River Redgum, sourced from Koondrook.

A representative from the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development also attended and participated in presentations to students.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge promotes workplace learning opportunities for secondary school Hospitality students, and it is not uncommon for the next budding chef to be offered a full time apprenticeship.

Thank you to our major sponsor Moama Bowling Club for their generosity and support of the Murray River Culinary Challenge in 2014.

Job Search Report

The weekly Job Search Report continues to be a hit with teachers and students! In its third year of production, the Job Search Report is a concise report of advertised jobs suitable for entry level employees emailed to schools and other education and training providers every Friday. Papers reviewed are the Kyabram Free Press, Riverine Herald, Campaspe Times, Cohuna Farmers Weekly, Country News, and the Waranga News. Websites searched include Australian Job Search and Seek. The Job Search Report provides students and young people with a valuable job search tool and the opportunity to be 'first past the post' in the application process. The Job Search Report is also used to generate annual frequency data on advertised vacancies in terms of vocation, time fraction, and type (e.g. apprenticeships, traineeships).

TABLE 1. Entry level positions advertised in 2014 per vocation

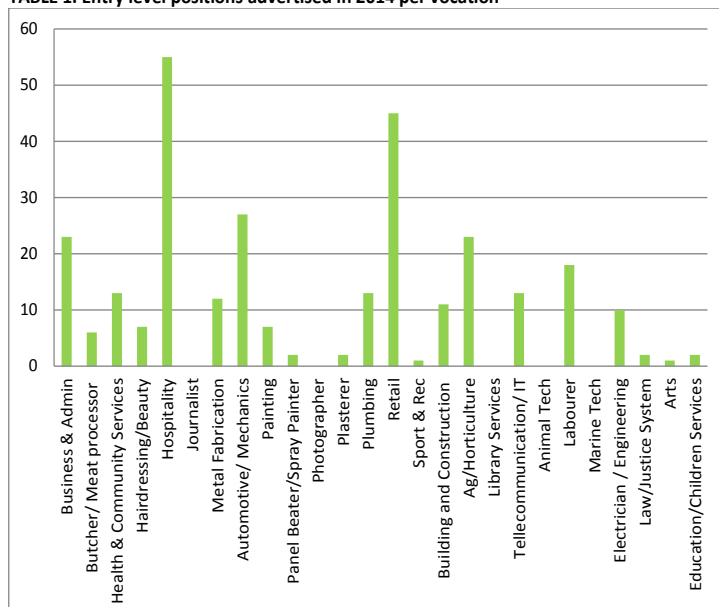
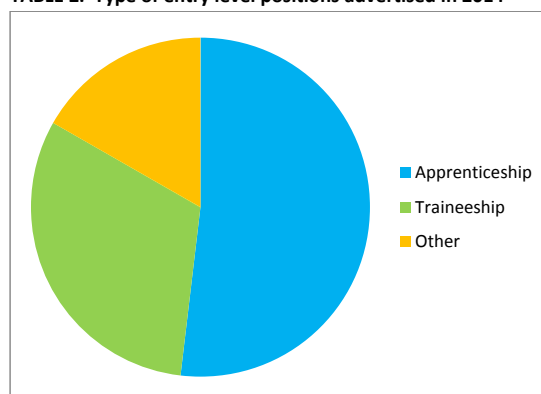


TABLE 2. Type of entry level positions advertised in 2014



Employability Skills Survey

In 2002, the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry produced the Employability Skills for the Future report in consultation with other peak employer bodies. The report identified eight key, generic employability skills that individuals should have along with relevant job-specific and/or technical skills. They are:

- Communication
- Initiative and Enterprise
- Learning
- Teamwork
- Planning and Organising
- Technology
- Problem Solving
- Self-Management

Employability Skills have been embedded into National Training Packages to reflect industry and enterprise requirements and to ensure students who gain competency are also 'job ready'.

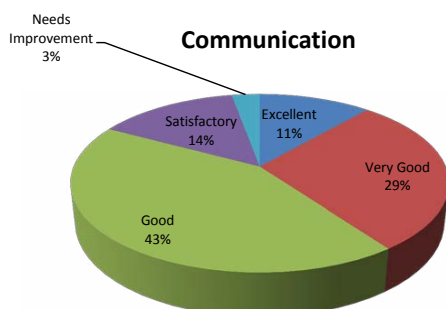
Anecdotally, the feedback from local employers is that these Employability Skills, or 'soft skills' as they are also referred to, are what they look for during the recruitment selection process. As educators then, it is vital to ensure that we facilitate the development of these skills throughout a student's learning journey.

The Campaspe Cohuna LLEN undertook a Survey Monkey with regional industry and enterprise to ascertain the level of Employability Skills demonstrated by secondary school students during workplace learning placements. One hundred and ninety surveys were administered with a response rate of 18.5%. Results are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 – Aggregated Results of Employability Skills Survey Monkey October 2014

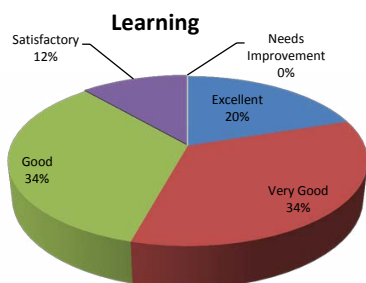
Employability Skill	Excellent %	Very Good %	Good %	Satisfactory %	Needs Improvement %
Communication	11.43	28.57	42.86	14.29	2.86
Team Work	5.71	34.29	45.71	11.43	2.86
Problem Solving	5.71	22.86	25.71	42.86	2.86
Initiative & Enterprise	5.71	22.86	25.71	40.00	5.71
Planning & Organising	5.71	20.00	37.14	31.43	5.71
Self-Management	17.14	28.57	37.14	14.29	2.86
Learning	20.00	34.29	34.29	11.43	0.00
Technology	14.29	34.29	31.43	20.00	0.00

A Snapshot!



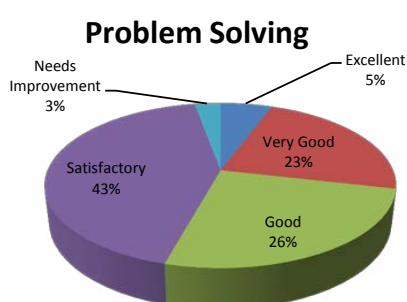
Communication:

Arguably the most important Employability Skill for students to demonstrate, survey respondents indicated that 83% of students demonstrated Excellent to Good levels of communication skills.

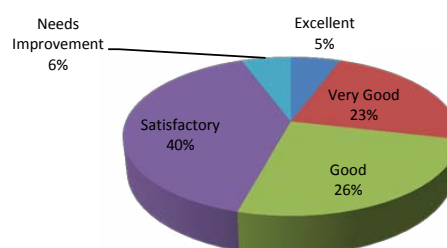


Learning:

88% of students demonstrated a willingness to learn; a highly regarded Employability Skill by employers. This was the highest rating score in the 'Excellent' category (20%) indicating students are reflexive learners able to adapt to new environments; a skill that will serve them well in the ever-changing vocational landscape of the future.



Initiative and Enterprise



Problem Solving and Initiative and Enterprise:

A score of 54% for both Problem Solving and Initiative and Enterprise (Excellent to Good) perhaps indicates a need to explicitly identify these attributes with students and nurture their development during class based activities.

97.14% of employers surveyed confirmed that work placement programs were effective in improving students' Employability Skills. Another survey will be conducted in 2015.

Comments from survey respondents:

"The high majority have presented well with very appropriate social skills".

"I find the students are nearly always very keen to learn".

"They understand technology well/learn easily".

"Students are of a high quality, being professional in their approach to this workplace".

Work placement is a "good opportunity to coach them".

Employability Skills

Employability skills support the ability to perform effectively in the workplace. They are also known as transferable skills (soft skills) because the employability skills you learn in one workplace can be applied and further developed in other workplaces and roles as well. Industries emphasise that employability skills and the right attitude are essential for young jobseekers in securing employment; training can cover most other aspects. A high percentage of students don't believe they have enough experience and required skills when they are applying for jobs whilst at school. Often students underestimate the importance of demonstrating their current basic, transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving. Being able to show such skills may put an individual ahead of a rival candidate with similar skills or more experience.

The CCLLEN has developed a highly interactive and fun session shared with students over an hour which helps explain and allows the students to discover these skills.

City Kids Experiencing Country Life

CCLLEN hosted 41, Year 5/6 students and five staff from Laverton P-12 College in August through the City Kids Experiencing Country Life program, as part of the Victorian Regional Growth Fund. All the transport is covered by the funding which allows the camp to be affordable for more families.

The camp allows the students to experience life in a rural setting by providing them with opportunities to visit working farms, natural attractions, historical and tourist centres in rural areas.

The students enjoyed the hospitality of Billabong Ranch and participated in a range of chosen outdoor team building activities, a night time walk, a campfire, and an indigenous dancing cultural activity.

Activities planned by CCLLEN included:

- a full day at the Golden Cow at Tongala with cheese making, a 'Mural Quiz' activity in the town of Tongala and a visit to a local dairy farm during milking time,
- a tour of the Port of Echuca and the new Discovery Centre incorporating a paddle steamer ride,
- a Parks Victoria indigenous cultural activity conducted at the Scenic Drive,
- a visit to Lockington Consolidated school where the city kids and country kids interacted in small groups and compared life in the country and the city.

Many of these students have never left home or been to the country before, seen a cow or patted a horse. Therefore the trip is an amazing experience, leaving them with many happy memories of their visit to Echuca.

Further camps are planned for 2015, and the program is funded to June 2016.

More information on all of the City Kids camps is available at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/curriculum/Pages/citykids.aspx>



Student Work Placement Log Books

Log Books developed for students to record their experiences whilst undertaking Work Experience (WE) and Structured Workplace Learning (SWL), developed by the Workplace Learning Coordinator Program in 2011, continue to be used extensively in the Campaspe Cohuna regions and in many other regions across Victoria. Around 4,000 of each Log Book are printed and distributed throughout the State each year.

The Log Books provide the student with a complete guide to undertaking a successful work placement; advising on how to prepare for a work placement, expectations of behaviour 'on the job', and what to do after the work placement. The main emphasis of the Log Book involves the student identifying the Employability Skills they demonstrate and/or develop during tasks undertaken during their time at work. Employability Skills are those transferrable 'general' skills that enhance a person's employability, namely, communication, team work, problem solving, self-management, planning and organising, technology, learning, and initiative and enterprise. The Log Books also provide an opportunity for valuable feedback from workplace supervisor's to be recorded.

A professionally printed booklet, the Log Books raise the profile of work placement programs in the business community, and provide host employers with a structured and standardised way in which to engage with the student during their work placement.

The Log Books continue to be provided free of charge to schools and other education and training providers in the Campaspe Cohuna regions through the Workplace Learning Coordinator Program.



School Leaver's Guide

CCLLEN partners with Goulburn Murray LLEN to update and re-print this valuable resource each year. Copies are distributed to all schools prior to their Year 12 students finishing classes for the year. Schools were also provided with additional copies for younger students who leave school. Training organisations, employment agencies and Centrelink also receive copies.

Kyabram Day in Industry

In June 150 Year 9 students from Kyabram P-12 College and St Augustine's College participated in the annual Kyabram Industry Open Day. The day was organised by the schools and the Workplace Learning Coordinator program.

The Kyabram Industry Open Day is about connecting students with their community.

On the day, small groups of students visited three different local businesses or organisations in Kyabram to help them better understand their community, and to initiate some consideration regarding career directions.

Representatives from each business give students an overview of the business and a tour of the facilities, and were encouraged to share their personal career pathway with the students. In addition, students have a 'passport' of questions to complete designed to enhance student knowledge of the business, careers available locally, further study and training pathways, entry level positions, and to generate discussions around work placement opportunities.

This year, 32 businesses and organisations participated in the day each offering a wide range of work experiences and career pathways.

Finding a career choice through community volunteering was a repeated theme as was the range and scope in many different industries.

Year 9 students start making subject selections for Year 10 early in Term 3, and it is hoped that the exposure to the wide range of work places during the Kyabram Industry Open Day assists with making informed decisions on study options.

The day was finished with a BBQ hosted by the Kyabram P-12 students at the Dawes Road campus for all students, teachers and staff from CCLLEN.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty

The Framework for Understanding Poverty workshops are based on the work of Ruby K Payne and give participants a depth of understanding of the nature and culture of poverty.

The series of two workshops was planned by the Echuca Wellbeing Cluster of State Schools, with funding support provided by Moama Bowling Club and assistance and funding from CCLLEN. The first workshop was held in Echuca in late 2013 and attended by 340 people. The second workshop was held at Rochester Secondary College in January 2014 and attended by 270. It was an excellent professional development opportunity that built on the concepts covered in the first workshop. Nairn Walker delivered another engaging presentation.

The Echuca Cluster schools sent their entire staff, as did Cohuna Secondary College, while other schools sent selected staff. Several agencies also sent representatives.

Echuca College organised a BBQ lunch using the facilities at the Rochester Primary School. CCLLEN staff attended and assisted with the catering and clean up. CCLLEN handled bookings for the workshop and provided a copy of 'Research Based Strategies' written by Ruby Payne, to each school that attended.

Campaspe Careers Professional Learning Network (CCPLN)

Twice each term, a dedicated network of Career Practitioners meet to share information and resources, promote best practice, and network with other schools, education and training providers and business and industry. In addition to their teaching commitments, Career Practitioners are assigned the arduous task of navigating a myriad of career information to support students in their career and further study journeys. Career Practitioners also assist with organising and overseeing the various forms of student work placements (work experience, structured workplace learning and school based apprenticeships and traineeships).

CCLLEN provides administrative and secretarial support to the CCPLN, and assists Glenn Webb, the Chair of the Network with organising their meetings.

In 2014, the CCPLN have networked with the following organisations: Wharparilla Lodge, Glanville Village Echuca, Murray Vale Aged Care, Rochester & Elmore Health Services, Echuca Regional Health, Central Victoria Group Training, La Trobe University, Bendigo TAFE, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, School University Liaison Officer, MEGT, GO TAFE, Centrelink, Regional Career Development Officer – Department of Education, JMC Academy, GoodStart Early Learning, Berrimba Child Care Centre, Bendigo Tertiary Education Partnership, GM Water, and the Department of Human Services.

Echuca College Step Up Day 2014

Over one hundred Echuca College students studying a VET (vocational education & training) subject next year were given an insight into careers their course could lead to in the VET Step Up Day on Wednesday, 26th November 2014.

In total, students visited twenty local businesses and organisations, gaining an insight into the careers available to them in their local area, the training and education required for those careers, and overall, initiating some consideration regarding career directions. At each work site a representative gave an overview of the careers available, the pathway to those careers, an account of their own personal pathway to their career, and an indication of the personal characteristics and attributes (employability skills) that employers require of employees, such as good communication skills and teamwork.

Students were also encouraged to 'think outside of the box' and identify valuable skills they can acquire through a work placement or part time job that will assist them in obtaining the career they are studying or striving for. For example, customer service skills acquired at a work placement with the Shire of Campaspe call centre are transferrable to a career in hairdressing and beauty!

Many of the businesses and organisations offered very interactive workshops, engaging students with real work tasks and opening their eyes to opportunities that can be hidden. All businesses and organisations that participated in the day are supporters of workplace learning, and students made valuable contacts for when they arrange their structured workplace learning placements in 2015. Lunch was offered by the Chaplaincy Committee, a delicious BBQ by the Aquatic Reserve.

The day was developed through a collaborative partnership between Echuca College and the Workplace Learning Coordinator Program with the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN.

Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation

The Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation is managed by a Board consisting of representatives from the schools, businesses and the community with the vision: Young People, real futures, our responsibility. The three Beacon schools are Echuca College, Moama Anglican Grammar School and St Joseph's College

In 2014, CCLLEN took on the new role of delivering the program for the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation. The main goal of the program, was to assist our local secondary students secure positive pathways to further education, training or employment post school.

Another element of the program is to develop leadership skills. 16 Beacon leaders from the three schools were selected as ambassadors and organised and hosted the events throughout the year.

- The first event on the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation calendar, the Business Breakfast, provided the opportunity for networking between the local secondary schools and the business community, to introduce the new leaders and engage new support and sponsorship for the Beacon program.
- At the Charter Signing Ceremonies, the 350 Year 10 students were inspired by guest speakers who shared their career journey and then they signed the charter pledge board. This demonstrated their commitment to applying themselves to their studies, training or employment and to the Beacon program. Teachers, business and community leaders signed the community board to show their support for the young people present.
- A combined Beacon Futures Workshop and Work with Wheels event was held at the Rich River Golf Club in June. After the Guest speaker, offered valuable tips and advice on making good life decisions, the students attended three of their chosen career interactive workshops delivered by local businesses and organisations. They also listened to ten short presentations on careers that are mobile. The opportunity to discuss in small groups with people from the industry on what the workplace is really like and the pathways for that career received very positive feedback.
- Over five days in August, 330 mock interviews were conducted across the three schools with 37 interviewers from the local businesses and community members. The students had the opportunity to apply for a mock job with an application letter and a resume and experience a formal job interview.
- Interview Technical Sessions were held across all three schools co-presented by CCLLEN staff to prepare the students for the interviews.

The Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation is a community owned model and has a firm belief that a whole community must be embraced to assist young people to build a bright future. CCLLEN is proud to support the Beacon program both in kind and with staffing.



Gap Year Expo

Taking 12 months off between school and going to University has almost become a rite of passage. Not all students want to take off and “see the world” before settling into a long stretch of University life, some want to test their career waters and their working stamina.

A gap year can provide students first hand experience of their potential career and university choice. It also has a practical side, money and references, both handy for the future.

Businesses also win when employing a gap year student, particularly if their business is the student’s area of interest.

A gap year student may go off to uni. But they will come home on holidays and may return, fully qualified and bring their skills back with them.

To bring these groups together, employers and students, a Gap Year Expo was organised and hosted by the CCLLEN at 4 Percy Street, Echuca in early May.

A dozen local businesses came together to meet and chat with about 40 students and parents who took the time to stroll through and gather opportunities that were made available to them. Centrelink also were on hand to provide valuable and up to the minute guidance on current money matters for students.

This was a great success and a bigger Expo is planned for the same time in 2015.

Agriculture and Horticulture Excursions

In 2014 the CCLLEN assisted both Rushworth P-12 College and Cohuna Secondary College in organising their Agriculture and Horticulture excursions.

Rushworth P-12 College students we visited the Department of Primary Industries in Tatura, Mitchelton Winery in Nagambie and Swettenham Racehorse Stud also in Nagambie. The Cohuna students visited three local Cohuna agriculture and horticulture enterprises. These were Archards Irrigation, Alden’s Olives and Elliot’s Free Range Eggs. On both occasions the students received information about the variety of jobs and training available for those who are interested in having a future career in agriculture and horticulture.

Campaspe Youth Services Network

The goal of the Network is to provide an opportunity to share information and connect with youth service organisations and practitioners across the Shire of Campaspe. The CCLLEN convened the quarterly meetings of the Network and maintained the database of the 48 Youth Services members.

At the June meeting we were pleased to arrange for Kelly Vennus the Victorian Project Officer for MindMatters to present to us. In December Jo Hatcher, the Victorian Rural Youth Services Support & Advocacy Officer, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic) joined us.

During the year the Echuca Moama Secondary Wellbeing Network, whose focus is also on wellbeing and the many wrap around services that are available to our young people, merged with the Youth Services Network.

In 2015 facilitation of the Network will be transitioned to the Shire of Campaspe Community Programs Team.

LEAP Into Health Careers Forum

The Health sector is a fast growing one and many career opportunities exist in our own region as well as nationally and internationally. A partnership, facilitated by the CCLLEN, between Commonwealth funded Learn Experience Access Professions (LEAP), Echuca Regional Health and the CCLLEN saw local year 8 & 9 students from Rochester Secondary College, River City Christian College, Echuca College, Moama Anglican Grammar, Cohuna Secondary College, Pyramid Hill College, Rushworth and Kyabram P-12 Colleges attend 'LEAP into Health' careers days at Echuca Regional Health in March and December.

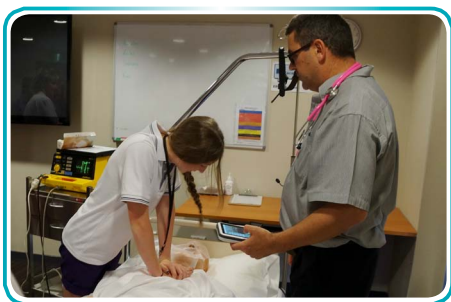
The days were planned to help students discover the range of careers and pathways available in the Health Sector. Students heard local professionals talk about their career journeys and also took part in a series of interactive and engaging workshops delivered by the LEAP professionals and local hospital staff and educators.

The workshops covered topics such as asthma, epi-pens, ECG's, First Aid, lifting machines, allied health, vital sign diagnostic tools and mental health. The students and teaching staff attending all valued the chance to experience this program in a hospital setting.

Parents had the opportunity to attend a Health Careers Information Session the evening before the March session.

In September a Health and Hospital Careers Day for local Indigenous students was held at Echuca Regional Health. As well as undertaking the practical activities students were reminded that hospitals have a wide variety of jobs / careers including Finance, Trades, Hospitality, Administration as well as the more obvious Nursing, Allied Health, Dental and Medicine.

Further events are already planned for 2015.



Youth Services Directory

This resource helps the community be aware of what services and agencies are available in Campaspe and Cohuna. The Directory is a simple listing of services and agencies and their contact phone numbers or websites printed in colour on a double sided A4 card. CCLLEN updates and reprints the information regularly, most recently in May 2014. It is distributed to all schools, Shire offices and youth agencies.

Let's Read Campaspe

The Campaspe Cohuna LLEN is leading a local Steering Committee implementing **Let's Read Campaspe**. Let's Read was developed by the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Reading with young children is the single most important activity that can be undertaken to develop a child's future literacy skills (the ability to read and write the printed word). There are very strong links between literacy, school performance, self-esteem, and life chances.

Let's Read is an early years literacy program aimed at promoting the importance of reading with young children from birth to 5 years. Families receive resources and support, free of charge (thanks to consortium agencies and grants received), for their babies at 4 months, 12 months, 18 months and 3 ½ years. In an attractive Let's Read pack the resources include age appropriate books, parent tip sheets, a DVD and booklists that reinforce messages provided by trained community professionals.

CCLLEN sponsored sixteen local early childhood professionals to undertake training in Echuca in July. This training enables them to support parents to have fun reading with their child and develop those early literacy skills.

The **Let's Read Campaspe** Steering committee is comprised of representatives from the Shire of Campaspe, Echuca Regional Health, PossAbility Planners, Echuca South Pre School Kindergarten, Njernda Best Start, Rushworth P-12 College, St Luke's Anglicare, along with the CCLLEN.

Let's Read Campaspe was officially launched during Children's Week celebrations in October at Apex Park, Echuca by Shire Councillor Emma Bradbury with a symbolic cutting of ribbons fashioned around a book. Rushworth held its own launch in December at the P-12 College with Councillor Adrian Weston officiating. Further town launches are planned for 2015.

Let's Read Campaspe is a unique opportunity to make a community based investment in the future of our children.



Community Reading Days

A new program the CCLLEN initiated was the Community Reading Days. This program was implemented in conjunction with the local libraries in both the Shire of Campaspe and the Shire of Gannawarra. The program operated during Book Week in August and involved the students from the local primary schools visiting four School Friendly Businesses in their respective towns. At each business the owner would read the students one of the short listed Children's Book of the Year books and talk about the importance of reading and the types of books they enjoy. Community Reading Day events were held in Echuca, Cohuna, Rushworth, Rochester, Tongala and Kyabram. The program was very successful and will be repeated in 2015.

Let's Read Campaspe

- Shire of Campaspe
- Echuca Regional Health
- PossAbility Planners
- Echuca South Pre School Kindergarten
- Njernda Best Start
- Rushworth P-12 College
- St Luke's Anglicare
- The Smith Family
- Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

Gannawarra Youthworks

- 13 schools
- School Focussed Youth Service
- Murray Mallee LLEN
- Campaspe Cohuna Youth Connections
- SMGT Youth Connections
- Kerang Rotary
- Northern District Community Health
- Victoria Police, Swan Hill
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Mallee Sports Assembly
- Loddon Mallee DEECD
- Cohuna Lions Club
- Kerang District Baptist Church
- Kerang and District Community Centre

LEAP Into Health

- Echuca Regional Health
- Learn, Experience, Access Professions LEAP
- School University Liason Officer
- GOTAFE Students

Community Reading Days

- 6 towns
- 23 businesses
- 2 Shires' library services

Koorie Working Group

- Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
- LAECG
- Koori Engagement Support Officers
- Shire of Campaspe
- Dep't Transport, Planning & Local Infrastructure
- Kaiela Institute
- St Joseph's College
- Workplace Learning Coordinator
- Echuca College
- Echuca East Primary School

School Focused Youth Service

- Northern District Community Health
- Murray Mallee LLEN
- 7 Schools
- DEECD
- Gannawarra Shire
- Swan Hill District Health
- School Community Wellbeing Project Coordinator
- Echuca Wellbeing Cluster
- Echuca Moama Secondary Wellbeing Cluster

Gateways 4 Sustainable Communities

- North Central LLEN
- Cohuna Secondary College
- Bendigo TAFE
- Northern District Community Health Service
- Gardner Foundation
- Boort Secondary College
- Pyramid Hill College

Apprenticeship Information Sessions

- CVGT
- Defence Force Australia
- Workplace Learning Coordinator
- Rochester Secondary College

CEAV

- DEECD
- 7 Schools

LLEN Executive Officer/Partnerships Broker Network

- 31 LLENs

Youth Partnerships - Southern Mallee

- Swan Hill Rural City
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- CCLLEN
- MMLLEN
- NCLLEN
- Sunraysia Murray Group Training
- Buloke Shire
- Loddon Shire

Loddon Mallee LLEN Executive Officer Network

- 5 LLEN's
- Skills Victoria
- DEECD
- DEEWR

Beacon

- Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation
- St Augustine's College

Youth Partnerships - Kyabram

- Kyabram Community Learning Centre
- Shire of Campaspe
- Kyabram P-12 College
- St Augustine's College
- Echuca Specialist School
- Campaspe PCP
- Youth Connections

Youth Partnerships - Gannawarra

- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Cohuna Secondary College
- Kerang Technical High School
- Murray Mallee LLEN
- Youth Connections
- Kerang Learning Centre
- Murray Mallee Training Company
- Northern District Health Services
- E-Works

Youth Connections

- Campaspe College of Adult Education
- Kyabram Community Learning Centre
- Bendigo TAFE
- Mirrimbeena Aboriginal Education Group
- Campaspe Primary Care Partnership
- St Luke's Anglicare
- Victoria Police

Campaspe Aboriginal Health Partnership Group

- Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
- Echuca Regional Health
- Murray Plains Division of General Practice
- Campaspe Primary Care Partnership
- Department of Health
- St Luke's
- Victoria Police
- Shire of Campaspe

Murray River Culinary Challenge

- Murray Mallee LLEN
- Goulburn Murray LLEN
- CVGT
- 6 chefs
- 2 Training Institutes
- 7 Schools
- The Centre

Echuca Moama Community Plan

- Shire of Campaspe
- Murray Shire
- Brains Trust (community members)

State WLC Network

- 31 WLCs

School Friendly Businesses

- 209 Businesses

Kyabram Industry Open Day

- Kyabram P-12 College
- St Augustine's College
- Beacon
- 32 Kyabram Organisations

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVic)

ICT: It's Everywhere

- LaTrobe University Bendigo
- LaTrobe University Bundoora
- Advance Computing
- GOTAFE
- Splatoon Cartoons
- Realm Building Design
- Community Telco Australia
- Kyabram P-12 College
- Echuca College
- Vic Government Dept of Business and Industry

Campaspe Careers Professional Learning Network

- 10 Schools
- 3 Training Institutes
- DEECD
- Worktrainers
- Latrobe University
- Beacon Foundation
- Regional Careers Coordinator
- MEGT
- CVGT
- Workplace Learning Coordinator

Campaspe Youth Services Network

- 48 Members

Echuca Wellbeing Cluster

- 7 Schools
- School Focused Youth Service

Engaging At Risk Students (EARS)

- Echuca South Primary School
- School Focused Youth Service
- YMCA
- Echuca College

VET Teacher/Trainer Network

- 9 Schools
- Campaspe College of Adult Education
- Kyabram Community Learning Centre
- Goulburn Ovens TAFE
- Bendigo TAFE
- Workplace Learning Coordinator

Murray Business Network

- 77 Members

CCLLEN Partnerships Map

KEY

- Level 1 Partnerships:** The CCLLEN has had a **direct** facilitation or lead role in initiatives with outcomes supporting the retaining/re-engaging of young people in education, training or employment.
- Level 2 Partnerships:** The CCLLEN has an **indirect** or support role in initiatives with outcomes supporting the retaining/re-engaging of young people in education, training or employment.

Campaspe Cohuna LLEN Inc.

47-49 Heygarth St (PO Box 273)
Echuca VIC 3564

[Email](mailto:admin@ccllen.com.au) admin@ccllen.com.au

[Phone](tel:(03)54826055) (03) 5482 6055

[Fax](tel:(03)54826588) (03) 5482 6588

[Web](http://www.ccllen.com.au) www.ccllen.com.au