

2019

REPORT



2019

Chairperson's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present our 2019 Annual Report to you all.

In 2019, I believe we saw the CCLLEN get some great traction with the Youth Partnerships group getting some programs up and running on the ground. Hands on Learning, Junior Park Rangers and the Murray Life Adventures are all examples of how working together with our partners brings benefits to those young people who may otherwise not get access to these programs.

The joint consultation project with the Campaspe Shire Council on the Voice of Our Youth, will bring some wonderful feedback and data from those who we work so hard to support. I am looking forward to reading the report when it is published soon, and seeing where the recommendations may take us in the future.

I want to thank Peter Williams, who took the Chairpersons role on last year, and did so with his usual passion and support. Thanks for allowing me to take a break.

Thank you to all of our members, partners and stakeholders, for your ongoing commitment in working with the CCLLEN. I attribute this in part to the hard work of our committed staff, under the expert leadership of Anne, and I want to publicly acknowledge their dedication and passion to the young people in our communities.

I hope you enjoy reading this annual report presented to you and look forward to working with our partners, stakeholders, communities, and board members to bring you another exciting report in 2020.

In closing, I want to thank my fellow board members for their ongoing commitment to the CCLLEN – your willingness to volunteer your time so freely is a sign that we are in good hands.



Kerri Raglus

Chairperson

Executive Officer's Report

Through 2019 we continued to work on school engagement, industry engagement and partnerships. This report brings you stories and information on our events and activities, and here I would like to mention a few highlights.

The Continuum of Need tool is making steady progress as schools and agencies make use of it to identify and support vulnerable students and families. Schools are finding that although it takes time to map students on the Continuum, the benefits of being able to identify and target assistance can be profound. Student attendance and engagement can improve when needs are addressed.

Campaspe Youth Partnerships continued its practice of collaboration and saw us able to offer a “suite of programs” to help with student engagement. This was the vision from the commencement of Youth Partnerships and it is satisfying to see where we are now, and continue adding to the choices on offer. The year began with a number of new principals at the participating schools, so we worked to bring them “up to speed” with the functions of the Partnerships.

The news that a headspace was being considered for this area was met with some excitement. We shared information to schools and asked for their support in lobbying for a local headspace. Schools swiftly responded with letters of support. Funding was confirmed, and work has commenced on selecting a provider to deliver headspace for Campaspe and Southern Riverina.

The National Youth Commission into Youth Employment and Transitions conducted hearings across Australia and asked for CCLLEN assistance to hold a hearing in Echuca Moama. We sourced a venue, approached stakeholders to present to the hearing and set up focus groups.

Through a partnership with Campaspe Shire Council and Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership on the “Voice of Our Youth” project, we were able to comprehensively reach a large number of young people across Campaspe and hear their Voice. The report will be completed in 2020 and we intend to bring that back to the young people and tell them how their Voice will be used in making change and advising the Victorian Government.

We see a bright future through collaboration and having young people’s voice and input and them being part of the solution. We are talking to young people in this community and there are so many passionate and awesome ones around us who want to make a difference, who want to learn and to make a positive change in the world. If you spend some time with these young people, you’re thinking that the future is in good hands.

Our thanks to our partners and stakeholders for their support, input and collaboration. I wish to personally thank the CCLLEN Board for their time, advice and expertise. And I thank the CCLLEN staff for their outstanding work, commitment, professionalism, project management and sense of humour.



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, attainment and transition outcomes for young people. There are 31 LLENs across Victoria. The CCLLEN's geographic boundary is inclusive of the Shire of Campaspe and Cohuna in the Gannawarra Shire.

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 CCLLEN holds funding agreements or Memorandums of Understanding for four major programs.

The **Local Learning and Employment Network Partnership Brokerage Funding** is for the purpose of brokering sustainable partnerships that increase the rate of secondary school age students who are engaged in education or training. LLENs play a vital role in establishing partnerships and pathways that connect young people to the initiatives that meet their needs and improve their prospects of engaging in education, training and employment.

The **Structured Workplace Learning Program** works with secondary schools and local employers to source hosts for work placements for structured workplace learning and school based apprenticeships and traineeships. A web-based portal is used to list the placement opportunities for students and schools to search.

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

Campaspe Youth Partnerships is a partnership of 21 organisations including schools, community organisations and local government. Funding comes from various sources and is used across the schools for a number of programs.

2019 Committee Of Management

Category 1	Schools Kerrie Raglus – Rushworth P-12 College Paul Marshall – Echuca Specialist School Louise Mellington – Kyabram P-12 College Michael Delaney – St Joseph’s College	4 positions
Category 2	TAFE Institutes or Universities with TAFE sectors Tegan Hartshorn - Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE	1 position
Category 3	Adult Community Education organisations	1 position
Category 4	Other education and training organisations including private registered training organisations, universities and group training companies Mahir Ozdilek - MEGT	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 Jenifer Clift – DWM Solutions Lynda Magill – Sarina Russo Apprenticeships	4 positions
Category 7	Local Governments Kristen Munro - Shire of Campaspe Lorraine Learmonth - 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 Rod Cairns – Community Living & Respite Services	2 positions
Category 9	Koori organisations, Peak Koori agencies and Regional Koori organisations	1 position
Category 10	Community Members Patricia Bradley	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 since 2002, and with the CCLLEN since 2010. She has qualifications in Career Development, Partnering Practice, Governance, and Training and Assessment.



Jacq Campbell

Structured 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.



Cheryl Sweeney

Project Officer

Cheryl worked as a Health and Physical Education teacher in Kyabram and Echuca TAFE for over 35 years. Cheryl's major projects for CCLLEN are the Beacon program in Echuca Moama, and Campaspe Youth Partnerships.



Ashlee Collins

Office Administrator

Ashlee commenced at the CCLLEN in January 2018 as a trainee undertaking Certificate III in Business Administration. Ashlee completed her traineeship in early 2019 and continues as our Office Administrator. Ashlee coordinated the Echuca Moama Youth Expo.



Brian Wilkinson

Project Officer

Brian has worked in Education for over 35 years as a teacher and Principal. Brian assisted on a number of projects throughout the year including the Youth Expo and recruited a number of employers to the Structured Workplace Learning portal



Jane Reid

Project Officer

Jane commenced with CCLLEN in March, initially assisting to establish the re-engagement program at Echuca College. Jane has worked in employment services, public relations and as a trainer and assessor, and has been working on projects with Youth Partnerships and Beacon.



Strategic Directions

Our Vision Statement

All young people are supported to engage with education to reach their full potential and become successful contributors to their community.

Our Mission Statement

We facilitate communication and partnerships between education providers, businesses, community organisations and individuals to assist young people to achieve their best.

This enables us to provide access to opportunities for young people which broaden their experiences, expand their horizons and support their wellbeing.

Our Objectives

- Connect with our stakeholders
- Develop partnerships
- Be inclusive
- Communicate clearly
- Share research and data
- Encourage participation
- Support wellbeing

Local Learning & Employment Network

To broker sustainable partnerships that increase the rate of secondary school age students who are engaged in education or training.

Structured Workplace Learning

- Engage with industry and employers to source appropriate SWL opportunities to be advertised on the SWL Portal, including opportunities for difficult to place students
- Train and support employers to enter SWL opportunities and employer details on the SWL Portal
- Train and support school staff to access SWL opportunities on the SWL Portal
- Promote the SWL Portal to schools and employers
- Maintain information on the SWL Portal to ensure it is current and meaningful
- Provide reports to the Department as required

Youth Partnerships

Project Manager for the Partnership, including holding funds and employing staff

On Track Connect

Support and referrals for school leavers who request assistance during On Track survey

Beacon

Contracted to provide staff to the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation to deliver its events and activities

Auspicing / Banker role

Holding funds for youth projects on behalf of unincorporated bodies

Supporting Young People

590



Students have participated in Employability Skills and Interview Preparation workshops in 2019 at schools across the Campaspe Cohuna Region.

240



School Friendly Businesses in the Campaspe Cohuna region, promoting and enhancing the links between schools, parents and the business community.

576



Students attended LLEN supported careers events in 2019 across industries including Health, Food & Fibre, and Information Communication Technology.

400+



Students participated in mock interviews in 2019. Mock interviews are conducted by local business people to give students an idea of what a real job interview is like.

50



Students were finalists in the VET in Schools Excellence Awards in 2019. Students are nominated by their teachers and trainers and go through a selection and interview process to become finalists.

99



Students were involved in the 2019 Murray River Culinary Challenge. Students compete at school and regional level before progressing and representing their region in the Grand Final.

266



Structured Workplace Learning opportunities were advertised on the portal during 2019. The opportunities are available to secondary school students undertaking a VET subject.

131



Structured Workplace Learning opportunities were consumed from the portal during 2019.

This represents 97.7 % of the KPI target.

Progress against Work Plan

Our work plan for 2019 continued along the three strands established in 2018 –

- Campaspe Youth Partnerships
- Careers Events
- Koorie Engagement and Attainment

Campaspe Youth Partnerships again comprised the majority of our work throughout the year. The Partnerships focused on improving student engagement and attendance. The funds from School Focused Youth Service enabled schools to access and test engagement programs that aimed to inspire confidence, communication and teamwork in selected cohorts. Murray Life Adventures and Hands on Learning were two programs that resulted from schools' requests and collaboration. River City Christian College joined the Partnerships.

The Murray Life Adventures program developed from a school's request for an "outdoorsy" program. The program offers a wide range of activities in a bushland setting beside the Murray River. Students are challenged to work together to problem solve and communicate to solve puzzles and navigate obstacles. Students attend for a full day, once a week for six weeks. Echuca College and Echuca Specialist School shared the program with eight students from each school attending, supported by school staff. Schools reported improved attendance, engagement in learning, communication and confidence from the participants at the end of the program. Echuca Specialist students found themselves able to accomplish more than they initially believed. Echuca College students developed valuable skills helping the other students through the challenges. St Joseph's College also used Murray Life Adventures as a component of a larger program they were developing for a disengaged cohort. All three schools wish to continue the program in 2020.

Hands on Learning had been considered by schools previously but the cost of employing an Artisan Teacher to deliver the program had been a barrier. In 2019 the Partnerships considered and agreed to employ one Artisan Teacher across several schools. The relationships built up over seven years, since the partnership formed, and the robust governance structures, gave schools confidence to proceed with this plan. An Artisan Teacher was recruited, with Kyabram P-12 College as employer, and a total of five schools running Hands on Learning programs one day per week. St Joseph's College and Echuca Specialist School shared the one day and worked together at St Joseph's. School Focused Youth Service provided funds for materials for the various construction and gardening projects at the schools, and Moama Bowling Club provided a grant to purchase a trailer and equip it with tools. In 2020 four schools will continue the program, with three of them sharing the one Artisan Teacher.

The Continuum of Need is promoted and supported by CCLLEN, with the directory of services maintained and accessible on a shared Google Drive, and professional development for schools and agencies arranged. A total of 27 people attended the professional development session. A number of schools have commenced mapping of vulnerable students on the Continuum and have found the process informative and useful. Echuca Specialist School has now mapped all students.

The input of young people is critical in understanding what is working and what would be more helpful, for those who are struggling to connect with learning, or already disengaged. CCLLEN and the Campaspe Shire Council engaged Youth Gurus to consult with young people across the Shire and learn more about their situations, challenges and lived experience. More than 2800 young people in Campaspe participated in focus groups, surveys and activities to contribute their voices to the consultation. The final report is due in early 2020.

A variety of careers events were held throughout the year, with CCLLEN either organising the event, assisting with organising the event, and/or coordinating and funding transport to the event. Eight events were held, and all schools participated in at least one event with more than 900 students attending. Student evaluation forms consistently showed raised awareness of careers and pathways, and greater interest in industry sectors, than prior to events.

CCLLEN continued to support the Koorie Homework Group run by Njernda and assisted with the applications for funding for 2019 and 2020. The Group has regular attendance of 10 to 12 students each week, aged from upper primary to Year 12. Njernda provides healthy food and free wifi for students. CCLLEN also maintained good relationships with the Koorie Engagement Support Officers across the schools, Victoria Police's Aboriginal Liaison Officers and other key stakeholders in the Koorie community.

Campaspe Youth Partnerships



Working collaboratively to support vulnerable young people aged 10-18 years to:

- Improve engagement with education and training leading to the completion of Year 12 or equivalent.
- Reduce escalation of problems for individual young people.



Values

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience
- Community
- Care

Full MoU members

- Anglicare Victoria
- Bendigo TAFE
- Campaspe Cohuna LLEN
- Campaspe Primary Care Partnership
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Department of Education & Training
- Department of Human Services: Centrelink
- Echuca College
- Echuca Neighbourhood House
- Echuca Specialist School
- Kyabram Community & Learning Centre
- Kyabram P-12 College
- River City Christian College
- Rushworth P-12 College
- Save the Children
- St Augustine's College
- St Joseph's College

Affiliate members

- Community Living and Respite Services
- Kyabram District Health Services
- School Focused Youth Services
- Victoria Police

Vision Statement

All young people have real access to learning opportunities, integrated services and community inclusion.

Mission Statement

Partnering to facilitate, the provision of an effective accessible and integrated service delivery and responsive learning opportunities for vulnerable young people.

Integrated Service Directory

The Continuum of Need is an online framework resource on services available in Campaspe. At risk students can be mapped to develop a shared support plan with a holistic approach.

Re-engagement Programs

A range of programs are made available to our schools to cater for different student' interests and abilities, to help them get back on track with their education. These programs aim for the disengaged young people to re-engage with their learning, improve social, personal skills and connect with the school and wider community.

Gateway:

Re-engagement program for young people disengaged from school to continue with their education in a supportive setting, with a view to re-engage with mainstream education or other alternative education settings. This is run by Echuca College.

Junior Park Rangers:

A primary based program which aims to encourage engagement, resilience and confidence, as an early intervention strategy for disengagement. Through project-based learning, students learn responsibility, teamwork, environmental sustainability and how to care for animals.

MATES:

A youth mentoring program which matches a young person (Mentee) with a volunteer (Mentor) from the local community. They meet weekly during school terms at the school, which develops a structured and trusting relationship. Mentors encourage and reinforce positive behaviour, enhance self-confidence and self-worth.

I CAN Network:

A combined school secondary mentoring program provides fortnightly group mentoring to students on the Autism Spectrum. It focuses on teamwork, personal strengths, communication, managing stress and building an 'I CAN' attitude. The Imagination Club is a primary based program for students who are Autistic, or who have learning differences or experience social anxiety. It aims to develop self-acceptance, belonging, optimism and confidence. Programs are facilitated by an I CAN Network Leader and Mentor, at least one of whom is on the Autism Spectrum.

Murray Life Adventures:

6 week program with one day a week with outdoorsy and challenging type activities with a focus on safety, fun and learning with a slow build on the concepts of team building and leadership with the main aim to assist to re-engage the students to education and teamwork in a fun and outdoors setting.

Hands On Learning:

Hands on Learning (HoL) is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn, helping students build confidence, engage and achieve at school. Students thrive developing the creativity, self-discipline and interpersonal skills vital for the 21st Century workforce. Students attend one day a week fostering teamwork and leadership. Students and artisan-teachers share meals and work together on meaningful projects that benefit the school and local community.



21



Organisations signed in November 2018 the Campaspe Youth Partnerships' Memorandum of Understanding as a Full MoU or Affiliate Member Organisation for two years.

7



Schools involved in Youth Partnerships programs: Echuca College, Echuca Specialist School, Kyabram P-12 College, River City Christian College, Rushworth P-12 College, St Augustine's College and St Joseph's College.

179



Young people participated in Campaspe Youth Partnerships programs over the year.

12



Students, disengaged from school, have participated in the Gateway program at Echuca College, which aims to re-engage students with education.

20



Students were mentored and supported in the MATES mentoring program. Through weekly visits at school, a volunteer mentor encourages and reinforces positive behaviour, enhances self-confidence and feelings of self-worth.

30

Secondary students developed strong leadership, organising and communication skills, teamwork, personal motivation and strengths, saying I CAN, through the I CAN mentoring program in Kyabram and Echuca.

28



Primary aged students enjoyed the I CAN Imagination Club meeting once a fortnight developing their self-esteem, social connection, optimism and self-confidence.

22



Primary aged students participated in the Junior Park Rangers project-based learning program at the Kyabram Fauna Park. Students through cooperative learning developed responsibility, confidence, teamwork and learnt how to care for animals.

37



Students participated in the Hands on Learning program that caters to the different ways young people learn, helping students build confidence, engage and achieve at school.

30



Students engaged in Murray Life Adventures, a program based on outdoorsy and challenging type activities with a focus on safety, fun and learning to assist to re-engage the students to education and teamwork in a fun outdoor setting.

Youth Partnerships Outcomes

Hands on Learning

Towards the end of term two, five local schools commenced the highly successful 'Hands on Learning' program. Hands on Learning began in Frankston in 1999 and now operates in more than 90 schools in Victoria.

It is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn. Small groups of students work collaboratively on authentic building projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow confidence and achieve success at school. Hands on Learning fosters strong, long term relationships that help young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life like collaboration, problem solving, communication, resilience and empathy.

Together the schools shared the employment of an Artisan Teacher, who worked for a full day in each school. St Joseph's College and Echuca Specialist School students combined to work together on the same day.

In each school the Artisan Teacher and the Hands on Learning students are supported by key staff.

Overall, student and teacher feedback has been positive. Students can see value in the program, and the real-life skills it offers.

"Hands on Learning will help me with my skills. I love using the tools and it will help me with my future."

It will "prepare me for when I'm older. I also do cooking and the dishes too, which will help me when I leave home."

The Moama Bowling Club provided a grant for the purchase of a trailer and tools and School Focused Youth Service provided funding for materials for the construction and gardening projects at each school.

Key Data:

- 80% of students felt that their ability to try new things and take risks improved
- Their ability to work positively with a range of other students improved by 73%
- Students noted an improvement in their ability to communicate with other people
- Three out of five students indicated that Hands on Learning is the key reason that they have been engaged and motivated to come to school
- Teachers feedback showed improved relationships with three out of five students



Youth Partnerships Outcomes

Murray Life Adventures

Murray Life Adventures is set along the Murray River and includes challenging activities that foster teamwork, communication and problem solving. Facilitators link the experiences to the world of work. Twenty-three students from St Joseph's College, Echuca College and Echuca Specialist School attended the program, and participated in activities including rock climbing, abseiling, flying fox, fishing and team work puzzles using obstacles.

During the program all students improved their self-confidence, communication, peer relations and leadership skills. The Specialist students were 'achieving more than they thought they could' with the physical nature of many of the activities. All students at the end of the program agreed that they could finish year 12 if they work hard, compared to 58% at the beginning.

Funds from the Ross Trust were used to pay for the program and bus hire to transport students.

- I felt brave and confident, I enjoyed working with other people.
- I learned that if you try hard enough and think about it, you are able to do it.
- I learned to never give up on myself.



Junior Park Rangers

Students improved in confidence, working with others, speaking and listening. They engaged with the learning activities and enjoyed the experiences.

Students enjoyed interacting with the animals, including handling them, feeding them, cleaning enclosures and planting vegetables that would later be used as feed. Throughout this they also learnt about the animals.

Quotes from students:

- The program was amazing and so wonderful
- I'd love to do it all year
- Thank you for making me part of Junior Park Rangers. I really enjoyed meeting new people. I loved every Friday we had together. Thank you
- Thanks a lot for everything teachers and the fauna park. I just loved it thanks for choosing me.



MATES Mentoring Program

Both mentors and mentees reported positively on the support they received and the quality of the program.

All of the mentors said they feel they have made a difference in their mentee's life, with comments including -

- She turns up to school when I am there
- Strong relationship developed over time
- I think her confidence levels may have improved
- Has helped with his social skills
- He seems to enjoy having someone to hang with
- Conversations are more comfortable
- He seems more confident and more talkative.
- He says he gets into less trouble

Mentees said "My mentor has made a difference because" -

- Made my life better
- Helped me build more confidence
- I don't get into trouble as much
- I just feel I can talk more
- She (mentor) has made school more enjoyable
- We talk about a lot of things



Mentees reported that they enjoyed the regular time with their mentor, to talk, share an activity and have someone to talk to. Mentors enjoyed helping young people, building relationships and sharing ideas and activities, understanding what a person is thinking, contributing to the community. Parents and carers also value the program, commenting that it provided a male role model, as well as supports and benefits to the student.

I CAN Mentoring Program

Evaluations of students who participated in both the primary and secondary school aged groups showed improvements in their confidence. Primary school students said they felt more comfortable at school and secondary students had more positive attitudes to their autism.

Families and teachers reported that after being involved in the mentoring program they noticed an improvement in the young people's confidence, greater pride in their Autism and a development of an 'I CAN' attitude. Student comments highlight the sense of belonging developed, saying: I have met my tribe. It's like family. I feel like I can be myself.



Continuum of Need

The Continuum of Need is a tool for mapping a young person on a continuum to determine their level of need against a wide range of domains that support their health, wellbeing and development. CCLLEN is maintaining and regularly adding to the directory of services that is linked to the Continuum of Need mapping tool.

At the request of schools CCLLEN had arranged a professional development session in May 2018. This created a lot of interest across schools and agencies. Schools have been impressed by the directory and can see the value of mapping students to better understand their needs and the supports that could assist them. As a result schools requested further training.

CCLLEN and School Focused Youth Service arranged for Vanessa McCormack from St Arnaud Secondary College and Maurice Billi from Grampians Community Health to provide a second professional development session in Echuca for schools and agencies to explore in more detail the use of the tool. Thirty people attended this session in April 2019. A highlight was mapping three case studies of young people using the tool, and the rich conversations each table had as they worked through each case study.

The last session for the day was presented by Tracey Farrell on the Campaspe Core Competencies Project. Tracey focused on the impacts of trauma on brain development and included the short documentary “Resilience” on research into trauma and the strategies being used by schools in the USA.

It was a very full and intense PD day, from which participants reported they gained a lot and felt much more confident with mapping students.



Murray River Culinary Challenge

The Challenge is an industry standard cooking competition for secondary school students enrolled in a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Hospitality Training Package.

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, the top scoring team then progressing 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.

The Challenge spans four regions and involved more than 99 students attending 16 schools from Campaspe, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Wangaratta.

The Regional Cook off between teams from EchUCA College, St Joseph's College, Rochester Secondary College and Kyabram P-12 College resulted in the St Joseph's duo of Cloe O'Brien & Nathan Huismann becoming the Grand Final team for Campaspe region on 9 September.

Campaspe was joined by teams from Murray Mallee, Goulburn Murray and Wangaratta regions who enjoyed a viewing of the kitchens at Galen Catholic College and a dinner with trainers and judges the night before the competition.

Each team had just 2.5 hours to present 3 dishes designed to display knife skills and basic methods of cookery. The industry judges were looking for consistency, flavour and were certainly impressed with the creative presentation from the students.

A big thank you to our Industry judges George Santos - Moama Bowling Club, Rebecca Hart - Boo's Place Café & Provedore and stepping in for Megan Knapp - The Kitchen Door, Dameon Holmes - Intermezzo Café. The feedback to the students is invaluable.

Shepparton team of Kara Leocata & Jenna Carter were the clear winners on the day. The coveted Murray River Culinary Challenge trophy, a piece of highly polished red gum sourced from the Koondrook forest, is now residing with the reigning champions, at Notre Dame College.

Moama Bowling Club has been a long-term sponsor of the Murray River Culinary Challenge in the Campaspe region and we thank them for their continued generosity and support.



2019 VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2019



MITCHELL BERG

Home School: Echuca College
VET Subject: Sport and Recreation
Workplacement: Echuca Basketball Association & Echuca College
Training Organisation: Echuca College



The annual VET in Schools Excellence Awards were held on Tuesday November 12 to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Vocational Education & Training (VET) students within our regional schools.

Around 670 secondary school students are enrolled in VET subjects and School Based Apprenticeships in our region this year. Fifty students were nominated for the Awards, during the ceremony at Moama Bowling Club all finalists were presented with certificates, and winners were announced in 13 categories. This year a category for students studying the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning – VCAL, was introduced to acknowledge this alternative learning pathway.

More than 250 guests attended the event which was organised by Campaspe Cohuna LLEN. Those present included students and their families, trainers, teachers, host employers, school community and sponsoring businesses. Music students from Echuca College performed four great numbers for the audience.

Guest speaker was Kelly Shotton who talked about her career journey to her current employment with local Business Foodmach. Kelly is a standout for women in non-traditional roles. Students were nominated for the Awards by their VET teachers and trainers. Completion of a work placement

in the relevant industry is a prerequisite to be a finalist with host employers providing reports on individual student performance. Host employers provided evidence of the skills in their comments such as “uses their initiative, really contributed to the team, eager to learn and demonstrate new skills, and really showed great industry knowledge”.

Nominated students submitted their resume and finalists were interviewed by a panel of judges who have dedicated their time into reading up on the students nominations before the final interview. The process from submitting nominations, including Resumes and Portfolios is good preparation for entering the workforce.

Judges Brendon Hawken, Belinda Egan and Michael Pratt were again impressed with the calibre of the finalists. Students demonstrated strong employability skills in their assessment reports and interviews but the Judges were most impressed with the “Can Do” attitude of so many of the students. One proudly saying “I am not sure exactly what I want to do but I will give anything a crack”.

MEGT SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICE/TRAINEE OF THE YEAR



JOSHUA TREACY

Home School: Cohuna Secondary College
Workplacement: Mawsons Cohuna
Training Organisation: Murray Mallee Training Centre
Certificate: Certificate III in Engineering



What is VET in Schools?

Vocational Education and Training in (VET) Schools allows secondary school students to study a particular job or vocation and gain industry qualifications. A VET subject includes theory and

practical components. Students undertaking a VET subject may be planning a career in that industry, or seeking a contrast to their academic subjects, or wanting to develop their work related skills.

What is Structured Workplace Learning?

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is an important component of a VET subject. Students are hosted by employers to undertake a short term hands on placement. On-the-job experience helps them to develop skills and competencies related to their subject.

Jacq Campbell, Structured Workplace Learning Coordinator with Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, says that “a work placement assists students to develop a realistic understanding of the world of work and to gain employability skills.



2019 VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS 2019

CAMPASPE PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP ALLIED HEALTH AWARD WINNER



MEGAN MCGLOUGHLAN

Home school: St. Joseph's College
Workplacement: Echuca Regional Health
Rich River Pharmsave
Training Organisation: Australian Catholic University



CVGT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD WINNER



SETH MCLURE

Home school: Rochester Secondary College
Workplacement: Jarrod Kelly Carpentry
Training Organisation: Bendigo TAFE Echuca



COMMUNITY LIVING & RESPITE SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARD WINNER



BILLIE LOGIE

Home school: Echuca College
Workplacement: Pink and Blue Early Learning
Training Organisation: Echuca College



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE EDUCATION SUPPORT AWARD WINNER



TAMEKA HANSEN

Home school: St. Joseph's College
Workplacement: Echuca Specialist School
Training Organisation: St. Joseph's College



BRADY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING ELECTROTECHNOLOGY AWARD WINNER



THOMAS CLARK

Home school: Kyabram P-12 College
Workplacement: Brett Cox Electrical
Training Organisation: Kyabram P-12 College



BENDIGO TAFE HAIRDRESSING AWARD WINNER



KYLA LUSCOMBE

Home school: St. Joseph's College
Workplacement: Lyndy Lawton Hairdressing
Training Organisation: Bendigo TAFE, Echuca



MOAMA BOWLING CLUB HOSPITALITY AWARD WINNER



JASMIN MALHAM

Home school: Rochester Secondary College
Workplacement: M.V. Mary Ann
Training Organisation: Bendigo TAFE, Echuca



WINTER BLUES MUSIC AWARD WINNER



MADISYN COLVILLE

Home school: St. Joseph's College
Workplacement: St. Joseph's College Wild Things
Training Organisation: St. Joseph's College



SARINA RUSSO PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AWARD WINNER



NICHOLAS HALL

Home school: Moama Anglican Grammar
Workplacement: A D P Christian Pty Ltd
Training Organisation: Moama Anglican Grammar



RIVERINE HERALD SPORT AND RECREATION AWARD WINNER



MITCHELL BERG

Home school: Echuca College
Workplacement: Echuca Basketball Association
Training Organisation: Echuca College



ECHUCA MOAMA REGIONAL TOURISM AND EVENTS AWARD WINNER



CAITLIN EBSWORTH

Home school: Moama Anglican Grammar
Workplacement: Moama Bowling Club
Sea World Resort
Training Organisation: Moama Anglican Grammar



CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN VCAL STUDIES AWARD WINNER



CARISSA HAMILTON

Home school: St. Joseph's College
Workplacement: Echuca Primary School
Njerndia Medical Centre
Training Organisation: St. Joseph's College



FINALISTS IN CAMPASPE COHUNA LLEN VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019

Allied Health

Emmy McDougal
Megan McLoughlan
Grace Membrey
Cassandra Hooper
Kaitlyn Schroder
Chloe Fisher

Building and Construction

Beau Harris
Mitchell Gugliotti
Alexander Graham
Seth McLure

Community Services

Grace Shaw
Shyhan Dean
Samantha Williams
Billie Logie

Education Support

Ella Larkin
Mia Dixon
Tameka Hansen

Electrotechnology

Billy Preddy
Thomas Clark

Hairdressing

Kyla Luscombe
Bella Slattery

Hospitality

Jessica Zlateff
Nathan Huisman
Jasmin Malham
Casey Ryan
Cloe O'Brien

Music

Tyler Cox
Katelyn Haitsma
Haydn Newcombe
Jonathan Morphet
Madisyn Colville
Finn Pangrazio
Shannon Dunstan
Hamish Thomson

Primary Industries

Milli Moncrieff
Angela Bavich
Nicholas Hall

Sport and Recreation

Molli Johns
Maddison Peters
Mitchell Berg
Luka Van De Zand
Callum Fish

Tourism and Events

Georgia Lowe
Caitlin Ebsworth
Amelia O'Connell
Ashah Downie

VCAL Studies

Hal Mulcair
Carissa Hamilton

School Based Apprentice/Trainee

Joshua Treacy
Bethany Lunney

2019 VET IN SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PROUD families and nervous students flooded the Moama Bowling Club on Tuesday for the CCLLEN Vocational Education and Training (VET) awards night.

The gathering represented the crème de la crème of the VET students from around the district, with 50 finalists across 13 categories.

Those 50 students went through an interview with judges Brendon Hawken, Belinda Egan and Michael Pratt.

In his speech on Tuesday night, Mr Pratt recognised the challenging work of the students and the commitment by them, and their families, to their vocation.

"To the finalists in all our categories of the VET Students Award, we thank you for putting in the effort and representing yourselves so admirably over the interview process," he said.

"There are over 600 students studying a VET in Schools subject in 2019 and you

have been rightfully recognised as the cream of the crop."

Mr Pratt said the judges understood the challenges facing the students, not only in their work placement but also in the interview process by facing a panel of three judges.

"We must congratulate you all on your approach to the panel interview and your participation.

"And we noted, most often, warm and firm handshakes – sometimes a little sticky – a smile and direct eye contact at all times.

Mr Pratt summed up his speech with six phrases from one of his idols, Tim Mitchin.

"Don't rush don't panic. Define yourself by what you love. You don't all have to have a lifelong dream."

"Don't put all your energies into seeking your own happiness. Be a teacher and a learner. And remember, it's all luck."



Campaspe Cohuna LLEN VET in Schools Excellence Awards Winners 2019.

Kelly Shotton

Speaking to a packed room at the Moama Bowling Club, local apprentice Kelly Shotton recounted her experiences on joining the workforce.

After leaving school Kelly was unsure what to do.

Working at Subway for two years, then travelling for three months, she realised a trade was the best thing for her and now, two years down that track, she is an electrical apprentice at Foodmach.

Things weren't always easy for Kelly, starting her apprenticeship as a mature aged female had its challenges.

But through her will and determination she cracked on and is now happy to share some advice to the next generation.

"Don't think twice about it," she said.

"Look at what you're interested in and a trade will get you there.

"Young women, don't doubt yourselves."

When Kelly was in trade school, she experienced a sink or swim moment.

"The teacher explained something to us and when he asked me if I understood, I still had no clue," she said.

"A person in the front row turned around and said 'well maybe if you don't get it you should quit, get an office job and let the boys handle this.

"I tell you what, by the end of the week he was turning around and asking me for advice."

From that moment Kelly never doubted herself as a tradie.

"Once you get a trade the world is your oyster."

Joshua Treacy

Joshua Treacy has taken out the title of MEGT School-Based Apprentice/Trainee of the year for his work at Mawson's Cohuna.

Leaving the classroom one day a week, the Year 12 Cohuna Secondary College student was completing his Certificate III in Engineering.

Maybe it was the confidence gained from years playing footy, but Josh wasn't nervous going into his interview, taking each question in his stride.

"I was calm, relaxed, and answered each question as they came," he said.

"They asked me about my placement, and my passions outside of the workplace." Josh isn't a fan of the classroom.

"I'm a hands-on man who likes being out and about, working hard," he said.

"In my placement I was doing a lot of work with the mining industry around northern Victoria and NSW.

"It was a lot of onsite stuff and in the shed building new construction equipment, no two days were the same."

Playing for Cohuna and the Bendigo Pioneers may be his true passion, but Josh realised the importance of having a qualification.

"Hopefully footy works out but if not, I could see myself following a career with a mechanical trade."

Mitchell Berg

Coaching basketball has always been a passion for Mitchell Berg, and his VET placement at the Echuca Basketball Association solidified this.

The Echuca College Year 12 student has just been named the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network (CCLLEN) 2019 Student of the Year.

"I was a coach for Aussie hoops basketball here in Echuca, so I trained six and seven-year-olds how to play the sport," he said.

"I've been doing this for the past 18 months, and I've really enjoyed teaching and watching them grow."

Mitchell has big plans for his future.

"One day I want to be a good parent, further my education through university and then be a physiotherapist and a basketball coach," he said.



Anne Trickey of Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, Mitchell Berg, Student of the Year & Kerrie Raglus Chair of Campaspe Cohuna LLEN.



Mahir Ozdilek MEGT and Joshua Treacy, School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year.



Structured Workplace Learning

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) funding is provided to 31 Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) across Victoria to increase access to appropriate SWL placements for students undertaking VET as part of their senior secondary certificate.

Structured Workplace Learning provides students with the opportunity to integrate practical on-the-job experience and learnings in industry with nationally recognised VET. This is undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL, VCE Industry and Enterprise or VCAL units. It provides enhanced skill development, practical application of industry knowledge, assessment of units of competency, achievement of some learning outcomes for VCE studies or VCAL units and enhanced employment opportunities.

One of the principles of quality SWL is that it “is of sufficient duration and depth to enable students to acquire a reasonable understanding of the enterprise/industry to be able to demonstrate competence according to industry standards”.

The State Government, with the assistance of the LLENs, has developed a Statewide Portal for listing placement opportunities across all vocations. The portal is available for all schools, students, parents and employers to use.

Schools can consume placements off the portal which will then generate all the correct forms. Businesses can manage student placements through the portal and readily align them with capacity to host students in the workplace.

Key performance indicators for 2019 were:

Positions advertised on the portal: Target 168 – Total achieved 266 – 158.3 %

Placements consumed off the portal: Target 134 – Total achieved – 131 – 97.7 %



Interview Techniques & Mock Interviews

Interview Techniques help prepare students for an interview, be it for part time, full time work or when arranging a work placement.

Topics covered are creating a resume, writing application letters, employability skills, first impressions, body language, personal presentation, handshake practice and how to answer questions in an interview.

Students then get the opportunity to use this new knowledge by writing an application letter addressing selection criteria and submitting their resume for an advertised position.

Mock interviews are scheduled and the students attend these live sessions as if really going for the job.

These sessions also introduce students to the Statewide Portal which is populated with work placement opportunities for Victorian secondary students.

Students learn how to navigate the portal using different search functions, how easily they can communicate their interest in a work placement with their teachers and how to follow up with an employer.



Employability Skills Workshops

The CCLLEN has developed an interactive and fun session which is shared with students over an hour to explain and allow the students to discover, their Employability Skills.

Employability Skills are the work skills and personal attributes that employers look for when hiring a new employee. They are also known as transferable skills because the employability skills that are learnt in one workplace or setting can be applied and further developed in other workplaces and roles.

Industries emphasise that employability skills and the right attitude are essential for young job seekers in securing employment; training can cover most other aspects.

A high percentage of students don't believe they have enough experience and skills when they are applying for jobs whilst at school. They often underestimate the importance of highlighting these skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and problem solving.

We also encourage young people to not underestimate their knowledge of current technology and emerging social platforms. This is valuable knowledge to share in the work place.

Throughout the year CCLLEN staff have delivered this session to 460 students at schools across the Campaspe region.



Echuca Moama Youth Expo

The Echuca Moama Youth Expo gave students the opportunity to explore all the youth, health and welfare services available to them.

One thousand students from our five local secondary schools came together on Wednesday 11 September to the fourth Echuca Moama Youth Expo which was coordinated by Campaspe Cohuna LLEN.

Years 8, 9 and 10 students from Echuca College, Echuca Specialist School, Moama Anglican Grammar, River City Christian College and St Joseph's College attended the Expo, engaging and interacting with exhibitors from health and welfare services, community groups, sporting organisations and youth services.

There were plenty of interactive exhibits including kickboxing, puzzles, football handballing, selfies, weight lifting, painting, fitness exercises, colouring, physio, boxing, pig drawing personality quiz and lots of surveys.

Throughout the day we were entertained by musical performances from each school which gave students the opportunity to show off their talents. The art exhibition was also a great way for students to display their artwork and the People's Choice competition was well-received.

Exhibitors were provided with morning tea from Twin Rivers Café and lunch catered by Echuca College's VET Hospitality students.

Moama Bowling Club sponsored the expo.

The expo connected young people to their community. Some comments from students:

- I learnt that there are many organisations offering opportunities for young people in Echuca.
- It made me realise that there is something out there for everyone and that everyone is welcome to belong somewhere.
- I liked how we got to see what is going on in the community because not many high school kids get to take a look at what is actually happening in their community.
- I liked how interactive everything was and I like that I could join in to activities and talk to the people and learn more about what they do and how they help the youth.



Engineers Solve Problems

In a move designed to address long term skill shortages in the Echuca Moama region, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and Committee for Echuca Moama (C4EM) have brought together young people, education and engineering industry professionals to talk about local pathway opportunities into engineering.

Sixty Year 10 and 11 students from St Joseph's College, Moama Anglican Grammar and Echuca College visited two local manufacturers; Foodmach and Byford Equipment, to see world-leading innovation firsthand. Students then went on to visit the once-in-a-lifetime Echuca-Moama Bridge Project hosted by Senior Project Manager Jason Warren from Major Road Projects Victoria.

Students heard from a diverse range of business owners, engineers, apprentice fabricators, computer coding specialists and project management professionals about the alternative education pathways and job opportunities that lead into an engineering career in the local region. Students also learnt more about Industry 4.0, mechatronics, robotics and industry diversification to keep a pace with industry changes.

"I learnt that there are companies in Echuca Moama that are world class and can be potential career paths into the future" commented one student after completing the tour.

"I learnt that there are a lot of different pathways that will lead you to the same job, you don't always have to go to Uni" noted another.

CEO of C4EM; Nina O'Brien stated "Like everywhere, we need more engineers in the Echuca Moama region. Rather than lamenting about how many of our young people leave the region, we are giving them reasons to stay, or maintain links to home while they study. These are our engineers, apprentice fabricators, automation specialists and project managers of tomorrow."

The engineering immersion day was coordinated by C4EM, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, and the local Careers Teacher Network, made possible by the generous donation of time by staff from Foodmach, Byford Equipment and Major Road Projects Victoria.

Student transport was assisted through the valuable support of the Loddon Campaspe Student Access Program delivered through the Victorian Department of Transport. Campaspe Cohuna LLEN provided lunch and protective equipment for students and accompanying teachers.



Health Careers Day

Year 9 students from Rochester Secondary College attended a health careers day at Rochester and Elmore District Health Service (REDHS) in June.

Students participated in a series of interactive workshops, which included occupational therapy, physiotherapy, nursing, dietetics and lifestyle activities.

Former Rochester Secondary College student Caitlyn Byrne shared her experiences of going to La Trobe University in Bendigo where she is in the second year of her nursing and midwifery course.

The final activity for the day was a demonstration of how many health workers may be required to assist a patient from an initial injury to full recovery. Almost every student was allocated a role, showing the supports available and the occupations involved.

VCAL students cooked a BBQ lunch for students and staff. Students received a showbag of careers and health information to take home.

Student feedback on the day underscored how valuable interactive workshops are for capturing their imagination and interest. Students enjoyed learning about the variety of careers and roles in health.

Our thanks to Cheryl Petrini of REDHS for organising all of the workshops. CCLLEN and REDHS collaborated to plan the event and CCLLEN funded catering, transport and prizes for students.



Food and Fibre Careers Day

In May 300 students from 22 schools travelled to Dookie for the annual Food and Fibre Careers Day. Seven schools and more than 90 students from our area attended with CCLLEN funding transport.

Many aspects of agriculture were on show in 24 different workshops. Students were able to choose three workshops. Aimee Snowden of Little Brick Pastoral was one of the guest speakers, along with Myrree Primary School and Professor Tim Reeves.

Lunch time included a Young Farmer Challenge consisting of a team race through a series of farm related activities and obstacles including hay bales, drench guns and swags. Moama Anglican Grammar's team won the Challenge and took home a drone for their school.



Avalon Airshow

Forty-one students from five local schools attended a special careers session at the Airshow on 1 March.

CCLLEN coordinated and subsidised the bus transport for St Joseph's College, Moama Anglican Grammar, Rochester Secondary College, Kyabram P-12 College and Rushworth P-12 College to attend.

After the careers session and morning tea students could explore the Airshow. They stayed on to watch some of the flying displays which are a highlight of the Airshow, before leaving late in the afternoon for the long journey home.



Kyabram Industry Day

Local industries and services gathered together to present careers workshops to Year 9 students from St Augustine's College and Kyabram P-12 College.

About 135 students swarmed into St Augustine's Brigidine Centre to hear personal stories of career journeys from 21 workshops. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and enjoyed some great interactive moments in a number of the workshops.

Businesses put together great workshops for the students to experience, including a "mock court" by lawyers from Dawes & Vary Riordan. Kyabram Health had a number of modalities to present and some real hands on nursing techniques to learn while Teaching, Veterinarian and Police were all popular.

All students participated in an O H & S workshop, presented by the Campaspe Shire Council, to better prepare them for entering the workplace and gain an understanding of workplace safety.

The afternoon session gave all students the chance to participate in the "Voice of Our Youth" survey and a great motivational session from Andy Bell.

A panel of local business people finished off the day with a Q & A session about their personal career journeys and offered hints and tips to the students.

St Augustine's provided a great morning tea bag for each student and the Kyabram P-12 Life Skills group cooked and served a delicious lunch.

Some of the feedback from the students at the end of the day included;

- I really liked how passionate people were when they were talking about their jobs and all that
- Learning more about where I want to go in a career
- I liked listening to all the different careers there are
- The workshops and explanation of the career



ICT Careers Days

Two events showcasing a variety of careers in Information Communication Technology were held, in Kyabram in July, and Echuca in November.

The Kyabram event catered for Year 9 students from Kyabram P-12 College and Rochester Secondary College. Mark Schumann from Advance Computing provided the keynote presentation at the start of the day, showcasing the software solutions Advance has created for local businesses using Microsoft tools.

In Echuca the event was held despite a Code Red Emergency being announced that day. Student numbers were down but those that attended enjoyed the activities, and with small groups everyone was able to “have a go”. The keynote presentation was on the use of ICT in civil engineering and the construction of the new Echuca Moama bridge.

At both events several very different workshops demonstrated a wide range of ways ICT is used, from robotics and engineering, coding, hardware, artistic creativity, games design, augmented reality, computer puzzles, drones and technology-based learning tools. All the workshops were very hands on and students enjoyed using the equipment as they learnt about the careers and pathways involved. Workshop presenters were La Trobe University, Campaspe Library Services, Advance Computing, Splatoon Cartoons, Goulburn Murray Water, Hawken Creative and AIE.

When asked, student feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive, with a big shift in awareness of the career possibilities using ICT. At Kyabram the number of students considering ICT as a possible career leapt from 30% prior to the event, to 63% after the event. When asked “What did you like most?” students comments included –

- I liked the concept of the day and all the activities we did
- The computers, coding and cartoons because I really enjoy those things
- I enjoyed learning what people thought was interesting about their careers
- I learnt many things from all sessions, such as, that as of next year you need a drone licence
- I liked that there was a wide range of information on offer and that it showed many aspects of ICT



Careers Network

The Campaspe Careers Network is a group consisting of dedicated and passionate Careers teachers from all our Regional secondary schools. A Careers teacher's role includes assisting students to find quality work placements for their students across a range of vocations.

CCLLEN supports the careers network by arranging venues and guest speakers, maintaining distribution lists, providing banking, minutes and professional development certificates.

Network meetings, held twice per term, provide an opportunity for school careers practitioners to share information and resources, promote best practice and connect with other schools, training providers, business and industry.

In 2019 several guest speakers presented at CCPLN meetings including La Trobe University, Anglicare, Echuca Regional Health, Department of Education and the Riverine Herald.

The Network was hosted by CCLLEN, Bendigo TAFE, Echuca Regional Health, St Joseph's College and The Mill.

Representatives from MEGT, Sarina Russo, CVGT, Collarts, JMC, Charles Sturt University, Bendigo TAFE, Apprenticeships Matter, Red Hill Education and Monash University also attended meetings throughout the year.

A major event for the year was a Wine & Cheese night at TAFE's Echuca campus. Employers were invited to hear about structured work placement, apprenticeships, how best to host students in the workplace and to share what employers are looking for in students.

Apprenticeship advice was presented by Lynda Magill from Sarina Russo and Mahir Ozdilek from MEGT. Lynda and Mahir helped clarify the rules and regulations around School Based apprenticeships and traineeships and were available to answer any questions.

Kate Pearson, a year 12 Allied Health student from St Joseph's College gave her experiences of work placement with some tips for employers from a student viewpoint.

A panel of local business people, David Stephens from Riverport Engineering & Hydraulics, Geoff Slattery from O'Brien Plumbing and Sean Garth from Moama Bowling Club were on hand to answer questions about hosting students. All three businesses are active in hosting and supporting students in their workplace and all had great firsthand experience and tips to share.

A presentation about the Structured Workplace Learning portal that all students across Victoria can access for work placement opportunities showed the range of vocations available to students. Any business can join the portal with the LLEN assisting businesses to manage their capacity to host students in their workplace.

This event was well attended by the school and business community with many commenting on a greater understanding of hosting students in their workplace; and the importance of doing so for our young people.

The CCLLEN will continue to support this valuable Careers Network into 2020.



Voice of Our Youth

The Voice of our Youth consultation aimed to capture the voice of young people aged 12-25 living in the Loddon Campaspe region, who are currently or have previously been faced with the challenge of leaving school early. It explored what needed to exist to keep such young people engaged and where the system needs to adjust to meet their needs.

As part of this process, the CCLLEN and Campaspe Shire Council jointly funded a deeper exploration in our Shire, and arranged a series of focus groups in Rochester, Echuca, Rushworth and Kyabram aimed at capturing lived experiences from disengaged or high-risk young people.

Priorities for Campaspe included:

- Provide an overview of the current situation/challenges to the continued engagement of all young people in education within the Campaspe Shire.
- Understand why some young people are disengaging from school from the point of view of local young people with lived experience.
- Work with community stakeholders, including young people, their families, education sector professionals and local business leaders to identify both the current barriers and future solutions to young people's engagement in education through to employment.

We collated data in six ways:

- Online survey
- Postcard activity
- Youth focus groups
- 5 questions in 5 minutes voice recordings
- Stakeholder consultation
- Deep dive forum

In November, CCLLEN staff attended the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnerships Deep Dive in Bendigo and were accompanied by some incredible young individuals from our Shire. The consultation was an opportunity for key Government stakeholders and Community Leaders to learn first-hand some of the struggles that young people face in terms of remaining engaged in education.

The Campaspe Shire Council and Campaspe Cohuna LLEN hosted a Stakeholder Consultation in December, which enabled local service providers, schools and industries to join together and discuss some of the key issues emerging locally from the Voice of Our Youth consultation, and identify opportunities to work together to improve educational and employment outcomes for young people.

Topics discussed focussed on the feedback that has been collected through the youth consultation process, including bullying, uniform, flexibility and choice in curriculum and delivery, access to mental health and other outreach services and the need to feel respected and valued as individuals.

The consultation also looked at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats across our Shire, with a common notable strength being the presence and effectiveness of partnerships between schools, services and community.

The lack of accessible transport and timetabling of V-Line services from small communities to major centres was highlighted, along with the lack of youth-focussed and outreach services, funding and capacity and the negative perception of VCAL.

Identified opportunities include offering varied learning modalities, vertical streaming where learning is based on needs rather than age, the confirmation of a headspace service in the area, outreach services and engagement between young people and industry.

We look forward to the release of the final report and exploring ways in which we can utilise the data to benefit young people across our catchment. The report will be available in 2020.



If I were a principal, the one thing I would do to make school better for all young people would be...

Your age: --
Your nearest town: -----

VOICE OF OUR YOUTH

www.voiceofouryouth.com.au

National Youth Commission

The National Youth Commission into youth employment and transitions is conducting hearings across the nation. Echuca Moama was the location for their first regional hearing on 13 May. CCLLEN contacted stakeholders and partners to participate, and many responded, either with presentations or focus groups. Presenting to the Commission was relaxed and comfortable, even though the hearings are a formal, structured process. The Commissioners made sure to put people at ease.

The range of presenters were able to illustrate the issues and solutions in our part of rural Australia. Presenters were from Echuca Specialist School, Committee for Echuca Moama, CCLLEN, Careers Teachers Network, CVGT – Transition to Work, Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation, Bendigo TAFE and Campaspe Shire Council. Focus groups were held with TAFE VCAL students, Echuca College Gateway students, Koorie Youth Programs providers and the Shire's Youth Advisory Group. Thank you to all who participated.

The Commissioners commented on the richness of the presentations in Echuca and indicated that the focus groups went very well. The Commission is providing progress reports during the inquiry process and will have a final report in mid 2020. You can find out more on their website www.nycinquiry.org.au



National Youth Commission
into Youth Employment and
Transitions

vision

more jobs for youth
able to start working younger, in
particular apprenticeships/tradeeeship
climate change
able to get licence earlier
live in safety / feel safe
improvements to youth justice
smoother transition between primary
and secondary school

create

new technology
opportunity to meet new friends
interesting learning environments
more hands-on learning
work experience from a younger age
opportunity for student input
(that is listened to)

School Friendly Businesses

School Friendly Business remains an important component of our communication with businesses. Members receive the CCLLEN Bulletin and twice a year calendars are delivered. The calendars cover a school semester and list major events for local schools. Business owners give us feedback that they use the calendars for their planning and appreciate knowing when particular school events are on. This is not just the school holidays, but also sport events, fetes and BBQs. Local businesses often contribute to these events and like the advance notice that the calendars provide.



Structured Workplace Learning Log Books

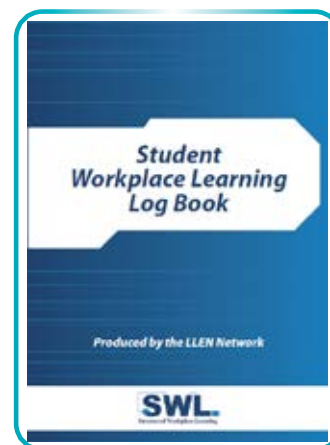
Log Books developed by the Workplace Learning Coordinator Program in 2011 for Structured Workplace Learning now form an integral component of a student's workplace learning experience. All secondary schools in the CCLLEN region utilise the books which are supplied free of charge through the Structured Workplace Learning program.

The Log Books provide:

- standardised work placement documentation, across the region;
- a more structured method of recording student achievements whilst on work placement to assist with gathering evidence of competencies for assessment purposes;
- a tool to increase student engagement with their work placement to enhance their workplace learning experience;
- host employers with more structure in the workplace learning process

The Log Books aim to enhance the work place learning experience for students and employers, with a focus on increasing student awareness of employability skills. Upon completion of a work placement, the Log book will provide the student with a powerful tool to use at interviews or as an addition to their resume.

In addition to the CCLLEN region, the Log Books are used extensively throughout Victoria, sourced through LLENs or through direct orders received from schools.



Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation

The highlight of 2019 was to have Echuca Specialist School join the Beacon program, which means our 'Real Futures' program now includes all five secondary schools in Echuca and Moama. This is a great example of collaboration and inclusion. Four hundred and twenty students participated in the Beacon program this year from Moama Anglican Grammar, Echuca College, River City Christian College, St Joseph's College, and Echuca Specialist School. CCLLEN assisted with all the events.

Leadership Program

The Beacon leaders have once again been wonderful ambassadors for Beacon, their respective schools and the community. Our nineteen leaders displayed excellent teamwork both with their individual schools and the other schools. The leaders have hosted the Beacon events with confidence and professionalism throughout the year and improved their leadership and event management skills.

The Leadership training day prepared the new leaders taking on their new role as Beacon Ambassadors. The day included group activities and 'hands on' workshops around public speaking, networking and leadership skills. 2018 Beacon Leaders gave advice on how to get the most out of the leadership experience.

A lunch with Board members and coordinators was held in November at Johnny & Lyles Café to celebrate the year.

Community Events

Business Breakfast

The annual Business Breakfast, held at Radcliffe's Restaurant, was enjoyed by 89 people representing the schools, Beacon Board, local businesses and organisations.

The guests heard from previous Beacon Leaders about the benefits of participating in the Real Futures program and the leadership program. Mia Oberin from Moama Anglican Grammar shared the leadership opportunities she has taken up since being a Beacon Leader in 2016. The 2019 Beacon Leaders hosted the event which was a great opportunity for valuable networking.

Fundraiser

Beacon held another successful sausage sizzle fundraiser this year at Bunnings in October run by Board members, teachers and Beacon Leaders.

National Youth Commission into Youth Employment and Transitions

Beacon was invited to be part of the Youth Commission Inquiry in May. Adam Prime and previous Beacon Leaders, Emily Mitchell and Annabel Lee from St Joseph's College presented to the inquiry. This was a great opportunity to promote the Beacon program and the positive student outcomes achieved.

Annual General Meeting

Held in November at Moama RSL was well attended and hosted by the Beacon leaders who provided the MC and speakers to reflect on the year and share their experience with the community members.

‘Real Futures’ Program

Beacon Careers Expo

The Careers Expo held in May at Rich River Golf Club, was bigger and better this year. Over 400 students participated in four workshops chosen from 62 on offer covering a wide range of careers.

The morning began with a panel of young people from four different career areas, who gave the students realistic advice on career pathways and passed on powerful messages about the importance of doing work experience.

We received positive feedback on the event from the 90 presenters and from the students. Thanks to the wonderful workshop presenters and to Rich River Golf Club for their sponsorship and providing the perfect venue.

Mock Interviews

Over 400 interviews were conducted by 49 interviewers from local businesses and organisations over six days at the five schools. The interviewers from local businesses and organisations gave the students a real-life job interview and provided valuable feedback. The Beacon Leaders and their Co-ordinators ran the days efficiently.

Interview Technique Sessions presented by CCLLEN’s Coordinator Jacq Campbell helped the students prepare for their interviews and to write application letters and resumes. These sessions are incorporated into the schools’ careers programs.

Pathways Pledge Ceremony

The Pathways Pledge ceremony was re-branded in 2019 (formerly Charter Signing) and the timing of the ceremony changed to later in the year. This aligns with the concept that the students have already actively participated in the Real Futures program and then sign the boards to pledge their commitment to their studies, and to further education, training or employment when they leave school.

The ceremony held at St Joseph’s College, was attended by over 420 students and teachers from the five Beacon schools and 47 guests from the community. Andrew Walker, born and bred in Echuca/Moama, delivered an inspiring presentation about the highs and lows of his AFL career and passed on valuable advice on making decisions and dealing with challenges.

Representatives from the careers teachers and the business community pledged their support for the young people. St Joseph’s College provided the music and the Beacon Leaders hosted the event with confidence and precision.





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Campaspe Cohuna LLEN Inc.

53 Haverfield St
Echuca VIC 3564

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

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

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