



REPORT



CCLLEN
CAMPASPE COHUNA
LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

2024

2024



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my great privilege to present the Chairperson's report for the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network (CCLLEN) for 2024.

It has been an exciting and rewarding year for the organisation, marked by significant

successes, demands, and the unwavering commitment and support of our staff.

I extend the Boards gratitude to all the staff of CCLLEN. Your hard work, commitment, and passion have been the driving force behind our success. We acknowledge and commend Jane on her leadership, drive and passion as the Executive Officer. Jane has initiated improvements across the CCLLEN and students are benefiting from these programs.

Over the past year, CCLLEN has achieved several milestones that reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting youth education, training, and employment opportunities. Through strategic partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organisations, we have been able to provide valuable learning experiences and mentorship opportunities to our youth; our L2P program is an excellent example.

Jane's work, determination and collaboration to implement our VET cluster has been extremely successful. This program will further enhance the work of the CCLLEN, but will also provide additional opportunities for students.

The Beacon program has significantly contributed to equipping students with essential work skills and preparing them for life after school. Participants have gained valuable insights into various industries, received mentorship from professionals, and successfully transitioned into further education or employment opportunities.

The Hands on Learning program has been instrumental in re-engaging disenchanted students, offering them practical, hands-on experiences that align with their interests. This approach has led to increased motivation, improved attendance, and enhanced self-esteem among participants. The connections made through HoL cannot be underestimated.

These have been just a few of the amazing programs the Youth Partnerships program has delivered.

As Chairperson, I have been fortunate to work with Jane and the Board at a time when the CCLLEN is extremely successful and impactful. The work completed and initiated in this field is incredibly beneficial to all students, current and future employers.

Anne Marie Cairns
Chairperson





EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

2024 has been a productive and purposeful year. As Executive Officer, I'm pleased to share highlights of what has been achieved through the efforts of our staff, volunteers, partners and communities across the Campaspe and Cohuna region.

We continued to strengthen partnerships and deliver practical, hands-on opportunities for young people to explore their

career options. Events like Careers Day Out, the Beacon Foundation Careers Expo, and the Kyabram Industry Day connected students with local industries, training providers, and employment pathways.

Our team again led the Murray River Culinary Challenge, a valuable opportunity for VET Hospitality students to refine their skills in a real-world setting. Congratulations to all students who took part, and to this year's winners from St Mary MacKillop College.

The Food & Fibre Careers Day, held at Dookie, was a strong example of cross-regional collaboration. With over 400 students attending 21 workshops, the day showed just how many careers exist across agriculture, science, technology and sustainability.

Transport continues to be a key barrier to education and training. As part of the VET Transport Fund, we coordinated travel solutions for students accessing VET programs. This support is making a real difference and is expected to continue to grow in 2025.

The Campaspe Youth Partnerships engaged over 200 young people through programs like Hands on Learning, Murray Life Adventures, and Junior Park Rangers. These activities help build confidence, resilience, and support re-engagement with school.

The Youth Take Over initiative offered students from St Augustine's College and Cohuna Secondary College group-based placements with Vivid and Cohuna District Hospital. These projects provided exposure to real workplaces and gave students a chance to contribute meaningfully to their community.

The Beacon Real Futures Program continued to grow. More than 500 students attended the Careers Expo, and Beacon Leaders developed leadership skills through public speaking, community events, and team activities. Business support remains a key strength of this program.

We also delivered a range of place-based initiatives:

- ETRSS Careers Week and the Rochester Year 8 Careers Tour introduced students to local industries and employment options.

- ICT Day gave students a taste of robotics, cybersecurity, coding, and game design.
- Employability skills and interview workshops prepared students for real-world recruitment processes.
- 306 local businesses are now recognised as School Friendly Businesses, showing strong community backing for youth transitions.

The L2P Learner Driver Program continues to support young people who don't have access to a car or supervising driver. In 2024, 12 learners gained their licences.

We launched new in-school programs at three colleges and introduced a second vehicle, thanks to support from Rochester SES, Lockington/Elmore/Rochester Community Bank, Campaspe Shire Council Flood Recovery and Echuca Auto Group.

Special thanks go to Terry James, who received the "Best Supporting Mentor" award from the Department of Transport at the Annual State Conference.

Tools like VIC VICE added to our careers education offerings. The virtual reality platform provides students with immersive experiences of real workplaces, particularly useful in regional areas.

In partnership with Campaspe Shire Council, we supported the Echuca Moama Youth Expo. With over 1,100 students and 40 local organisations involved, the event showcased the many ways young people can connect with clubs, services, and community groups.

Collaboration with other LLENs remains important. With Goldfields, North Central and Central Ranges LLENs, we co-developed the Careers Explorium resource and supported initiatives like Find Your Feet and the Youth Take Over pilots.

Thanks to our staff – Jacq, Cath, Nikki, Debbie, and Graeme (who retired in March), and SWL and Work Experience students Greta and Archie – and to our many volunteers and board members. Your commitment continues to make a real difference for young people across our region.

I look forward to what lies ahead in 2025 as we keep working together to support positive futures for all young people.

Jane Reid
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 Purpose

The predominant purpose and object of Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network is to support young people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to improve their engagement with education and training leading to the completion of Year 12 or its equivalent. Vulnerable young people include those who are indigenous, disabled, rurally isolated, socially and/or economically disadvantaged.



Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network will pursue this by:

- Facilitating communication and brokering partnerships between education providers, businesses, community organisations and individuals to assist young people to achieve their best;
- Promoting, supporting and encouraging the provision of information, guidance and pathways planning to enable people to make well-informed employment, education and training choices.
- Providing access to opportunities for young people which broaden their experiences, expand their horizons and support their wellbeing;
- Developing, encouraging and facilitating collaborative approaches towards the planning and improved delivery of education and training to better accommodate the learning needs of vulnerable individuals;
- Promoting connections between education and training with industry and local and regional employment opportunities;

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.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Category 1	Schools Marina Walsh – Kyabram P-12 College Matthew Koutroubas – Rochester Secondary College Anne Marie Cairns – St Joseph's College	4 Positions
Category 2	TAFE Institutes or Universities with TAFE sectors	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 Lynda Magill – Apprenticeship Support Australia	4 Positions
Category 7	Local Governments Jo Bradshaw - Campaspe Shire Council Mesh Thomson – Gannawarra Shire Council	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 Darryl Brown – Wilmot Road Primary School	2 Positions
Category 9	Koorie organisations, Peak Koorie agencies and Regional Koorie organisations	1 Position
Category 10	Community Members	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



Jane Reid | Executive Officer

Jane commenced with CCLLEN in July 2019. Jane has worked in employment services, public relations and as a trainer and assessor, joining CCLLEN as a Project Officer, coordinating for the Beacon Real Futures Program and Campaspe Youth Partnerships. In December 2022, Jane was appointed to the role of Executive Officer.

Jacq Campbell | School to Work 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 Structured Workplace Learning Coordinator role, now the School to Work program.



Cath Elms | Project Officer | Beacon Coordinator

Having commenced with CCLLEN in January 2023, Cath has worked extensively with our five schools as the Real Futures Project Manager for the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation. Cath has also worked on the School to Work and Campaspe Youth Partnerships programs, providing careers workshops and support for students, together with facilitating the CYP program working collaboratively with its members to support vulnerable young people aged 10-18 years.

Nikki Harris | Project Officer | L2P Coordinator

Nikki joined CCLLEN in January 2022 after relocating from Melbourne. With extensive project administration experience, Nikki has provided administrative support across all projects, including the L2P and Beacon programs. Nikki is responsible for organising the Echuca and Kyabram Youth Expos and in April of 2024, was appointed to the role of Coordinator for the L2P Program, overseeing its operations and ensuring its success.



Graeme Hodgins | L2P Coordinator

Graeme became part of our team in December 2022, taking on the role of L2P Coordinator and leading the L2P program. As a former Principal, Graeme has a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with young people and the community. Graeme retired at the end of March 2024, and we extend our best wishes for his future endeavours.

Debbie Rogerson | Project Officer

Debbie was appointed as Project Officer for the Youth Take Over program in May 2023. Having worked for the Department of Education for the past 34 years as a Business Manager, Debbie's communication and organisation skills have enabled the successful launch of the first YTO project in Echuca.



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



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH INDUSTRY

480 
Students have participated in Employability Skills and Interview Preparation workshops in 2024 at schools across the Campaspe Cohuna Region.

306 
School Friendly Businesses in the Campaspe Cohuna region, promoting and enhancing the links between schools, parents and the business community.

1041 
Students (approximately) attended LLEN supported careers events and industry tours in 2024.

416 
Students participated in mock interviews in 2024. Mock interviews are conducted by local business people to give students an idea of what a real job interview is like.

177 
New School To Work opportunities were advertised on the portal during 2024, in addition to previously listed opportunities.

178 
Active Host Employers on the portal offering SWL and Work Experience placements for students.

12 
Learner Drivers in the L2P Program graduated from the program and gained their driver licence.

28 
Careers events were organised by CCLLEN and attended by 1,549 students.

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 Shire Council
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services: Centrelink
- Echuca College
- Echuca Neighbourhood House
- Echuca Regional Health
- Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School
- Kyabram Community & Learning Centre
- Kyabram P-12 College
- Australian Christian College
- Rochester Secondary College
- Rushworth P-12 College
- 54reasons – Hands on Learning Program
- 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 students' 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.

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 of 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.

CAMPASPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS 2024

22



Organisations are members of Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

7



Students participated in the MATES Mentoring Program with a mentor from the community.

8



Schools involved in Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

33



Students participated in an animal based program at Kyabram Fauna Park.

211



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

102



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.

12



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.

201

INDIRECT PROGRAMS

Students participated in indirect programs such as the teenage fitness program Kyfit, together with various Leadership Programs.

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CAMPASPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the course of 2024, 211 young people engaged with at least one of the suite of programs supported by Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

All partners continued their involvement and commitment to supporting the Partnerships and attending meetings. The Partnerships has a sound track record of collaboration and sharing. Schools are willing to work together, across sectors, on a variety of projects, both within and beyond the Partnerships projects. Other organisations seek to work with the Partnerships as an effective way to reach young people across the shire. The Partnerships is a key conduit for new providers and staff to connect to decision makers. The Vic Health Partnership Tool is used regularly to measure the strength of the Partnerships.

Through the Partnerships young people have access to a range of engagement programs that can inspire and support them, while improving teamwork, problem solving and communication skills. Some programs are delivered in school and some are external.

Throughout 2024, the Hands on Learning program continued to thrive, with 102 students

participating across various schools. Schools reported that these students demonstrated improved engagement and attendance. As part of the program, students built, made or repaired items for others, while working on personalised plans for their own development and improvement.

Murray Life Adventures offers a variety of challenging activities in a picturesque outdoor setting along the banks of the Murray River. Twelve students from St Joseph's College participated in the program, engaging in activities designed to enhance their communication skills, problem-solving abilities, peer relationships, and teamwork. The serene yet stimulating environment provided the perfect backdrop for students to push their boundaries, collaborate with peers, and develop essential life skills.

The Junior Park Rangers program at Kyabram Fauna Park is a shining example of how innovative educational programs can positively transform the lives of students who are at risk of disengaging from school. By combining learning with adventure, the education team at the Park provided a program that helps students build confidence, develop essential skills, and reconnect with their love for learning. As the Junior Park Rangers program continues to grow, it aims to reach even more students and expand its offerings. The hope is that by engaging students in meaningful, hands-on activities, they will not only improve their academic performance but also develop a lifelong appreciation for nature and conservation.



CAMPASPE CAREERS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

The Campaspe Careers Network is a group consisting of dedicated and passionate Careers teachers from all our Regional secondary schools.

The Careers teachers' 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.

During 2024 we continued meeting on virtual platforms and when we could, added the hybrid style, some face to face while others joined us across TEAMS.

As almost all of the universities and other training and educational providers are city based or out of region, not all meetings were attended in a regular year. With the advantage of meetings on virtual platforms, everyone could attend and did so, sharing information to the group prior to each meeting so there was time for the careers practitioners to gather questions and field ideas. This was an enormous advantage to the careers network with strong connections created with Monash University, Federation University, La Trobe, Melbourne University, Charles Sturt, Deakin and RMIT.

The network was also joined at each meeting by representatives from the Department of Education, MEGT, Sarina Russo, William Angliss, Hotel School, JMC Academy, Collarts, Integrity Business College and the Photography College.

Guest presenters were welcomed throughout the year including Brick & Block Careers, Murray River Council, Seed 2 Stem and the La Trobe Aspire program. Each of these presenters shared new ideas and opportunities to the network that could value add to their student experiences.

The network also bid farewell to a number of members who have moved into different roles or new careers. We thank them for their valuable time and the great connections they helped create for our career practitioners and students.



STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING



Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) across Victoria are funded to increase access to appropriate SWL placements for students undertaking VET as part of their senior secondary certificate.

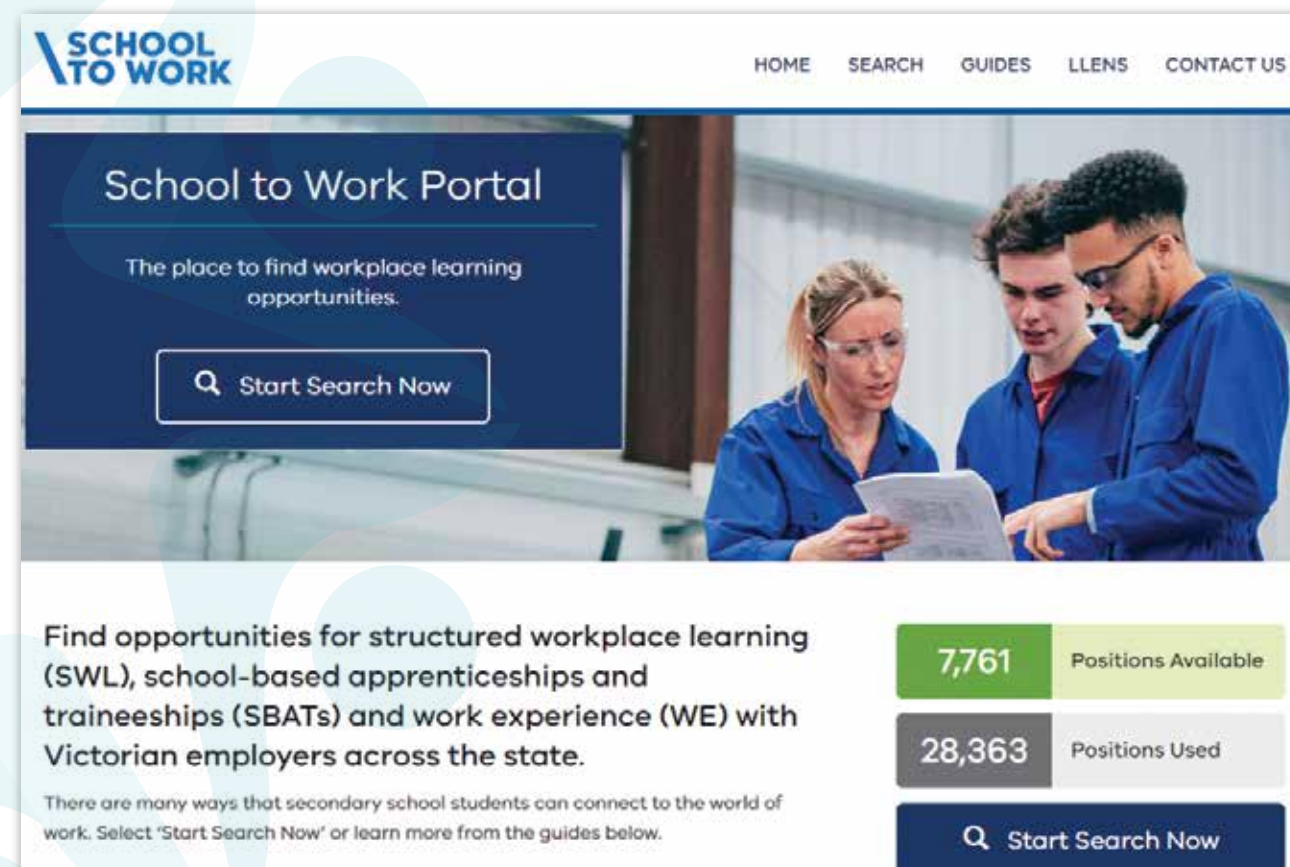
Structured Workplace Learning provides students with the opportunity to integrate practical on-the-job experience and learnings in industry with nationally recognised VET. This is undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL, VCE Industry and Enterprise or VCAL units. It provides enhanced skill development, 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.



KYABRAM INDUSTRY DAY

One hundred and twenty-six Year 9 students from St Augustine's College, Kyabram P-12 College and Rushworth P-12 College swarmed into the Brigidine Centre at St Augustine's College to hear personal stories of career journeys from 22 workshop presentations.

Local industries and services gathered to present the workshops to students who had been surveyed to choose their top four career choices. Students rotated through their chosen presentations with the opportunity to ask questions and enjoy some great interactive moments in a number of the workshops.

There was an array of presenters offering workshop presentations in Aged Care, Veterinary, Diesel Mechanics, Engineering, Farming for the Future, Early Childhood Learning, Law and Architecture, just to name a few.

Guest speaker Jayden Howe from headspace shared his diverse career journey, which spans from carpentry to working with youth at headspace. Jayden emphasized his openness to learning new things and expressed his aspiration to become a pilot in the future. His message was one of dreaming big, working hard towards your

goals, and understanding that it's okay to change your mind along the way. Jayden is passionate about being a role model in the community and connecting with young people, helping them navigate their path to adulthood.

Feedback from students included the comments "I liked how everyone explained what you needed to do in school for each job", "I liked seeing all the different career paths and what education you need to pursue them", "I liked how diverse all the stations were and how they decided to represent themselves, because it helps me and so many others see what we'd like to do", "I learnt that you don't need Year 12 for everything but it would be smart to finish it".

Kyabram Bakery provided a great morning tea "grab and go" bag with the CCLLEN providing fresh fruit, tea and coffee for our presenters.

ROCHESTER YEAR 8 CAREERS EXPLORATION DAY

Building on the success of the Year 8 Careers Exploration Day in 2023, the careers team at Rochester Secondary College once again motivated their Year 8 students to explore opportunities beyond the school gates.



The CCLLEN assisted in the coordination of 64 students and half a dozen teachers out into the town of Rochester.

The brief had two objectives: to provide students with a diverse range of industries to engage with and to showcase, firsthand, that their town and local businesses are thriving.

The CCLLEN reached out to over 20 local businesses to assess their capacity to host student group visits. The diversity of industries included a variety of retail operators, agriculture and environment, medical, hospitality, early years education, engineering, automotive, hair & beauty.

The students were given "Passports" that listed each of the businesses they would be visiting. These passports included space for students to jot down answers to questions like "What did you hear or learn about?" and "Does this business offer work experience?" They could also note down things they found interesting.

The students were divided into four groups, two walking through different sides of Rochester CBD and two in buses to outer lying businesses, each group spending a full day visiting six different industries.

The students regrouped to exchange observations and

learnings from the different industries they had visited over lunch provided by Rochester Bakery.

Feedback from the students included the comments "Many businesses, like Nichol Trading, do not require specific qualifications, and work experience is often available. You can even volunteer to help at places like the Community House", "Some jobs are more challenging than they might appear, and many local businesses are short on staff".

Businesses were very positive about the school engagement and will look forward to seeing students next year.



ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SPECIALIST SCHOOL CAREERS WEEK

Students from Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School embarked on a weeklong event, exploring the twin towns of Echuca and Moama.



Each day, they visited different industry for approximately 90 minutes, rotating through a total of 5 industries. Approximately 28 students from Years 10/11/12 with 9 staff went in different directions every morning.

Echuca West Woolworths

Students visiting the Echuca West Woolworths store walked a few minutes from school to meet store manager Meg Savage. They learned about the store's operations, its commitment to sustainability, and the impressive Bluetooth technology that updates shelf price dockets. With one of the aisles intentionally left slightly disorganised overnight, students had the opportunity to practice "facing up" products on the shelves.

We Are Vivid

Vivid supports adults with intellectual disabilities by offering flexible, individualised support plans. Students enjoyed activities such as car detailing, arts and crafts, gardening, and participating in work crews.



Community Living and Respite Services

By establishing two social enterprises, the Murray River Tea Rooms and Recyclability, CLRS promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community and provides valuable opportunities that foster a strong sense of accomplishment. Students learned that they could gain skills, experience, and confidence here, opening future employment opportunities.

Echuca Discoveries

Laundry Mates, a social enterprise by Echuca Discoveries, provides individuals with the opportunity to learn skills in the laundry industry. They secure contracts from local motels, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, hairdressers, and resorts. This vibrant business creates a lively atmosphere, and students had great fun with music playing as they helped fold and bag clean towels for a contract.

It was a bustling and fulfilling week for students, staff, and local businesses, sparking new ideas and opportunities for everyone involved.

ICT DAY

Rochester Secondary College hosted an engaging and dynamic ICT Day, welcoming students from all secondary schools within the Campaspe Shire.

This event was specifically designed for students with a keen interest in exploring career options and pathways in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist workshops led by renowned industry experts and academic institutions. Latrobe University provided fascinating insights into the world of robotics, while Advance Computing delivered an informative session on cybersecurity. The experts from GM Water introduced students to the exciting realm of drone technology, and The Brainery offered a hands-on workshop on Python coding. Additionally, the Australian Institute



of Electronics (AIE) captivated students with a session on game design.

The hands-on, interactive nature of these workshops allowed students to delve deeply into each topic, providing a unique opportunity to explore potential future careers in the ever-evolving field of ICT. The event was a resounding success, sparking curiosity and inspiration among the next generation of technology innovators. Students left the event with a greater understanding of the diverse career possibilities within ICT and a renewed enthusiasm for their future educational and career pursuits.

FOOD AND FIBRE CAREERS DAY



The Dookie Food & Fibre Careers Day is an annual event that brings together students, educators, and industry professionals to explore the diverse career opportunities within the food and fibre sectors.

In May 2024, LLENs, universities, TAFEs, training organisations and industry bodies collaborated to organise the Food & Fibre Careers Day at the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus. The event attracted over 400 students, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore the latest advancements and career pathways in the food and fibre industries.

A total of twenty-one workshops were available, many of which reached full capacity during



registration. These workshops covered a broad spectrum of topics, including dairy and AI, livestock nutrition, vet-tech, beef, wool, sheep handling, pigs, equine/farrier, bees, plants for space, biosecurity, get into genes, hydroponics, indigenous foods, viticulture, bug detectives, sweet science, pastures, agricultural drones/aerial ag, coding autonomous farm machines, technology – farming for the future and agricultural contracting. This diverse range of workshops provided comprehensive insights into various aspects of food & fibre production.

Student feedback revealed a significant rise in interest in pursuing careers in food & fibre. They particularly enjoyed the hand-on activities and the opportunity to learn new things. Additionally, they appreciated the wide variety of workshops available.

TAC L2P LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM

For over 13 years, the Campaspe TAC L2P Learner Driver Program has helped hundreds of young people accumulate the necessary learner driver hours required to gain their probationary licence. This year, 12 learners in the Campaspe Program successfully obtained their driver licences.

The TAC L2P Program supports Victorian learner drivers aged 16 to 21 (and in some cases, up to 23) who do not have access to a supervising driver or an appropriate vehicle, helping them gain the 120 hours of driving experience required for a probationary licence. If a young person has a current learner permit, meets the eligibility criteria, and is accepted into the program, the TAC L2P Program pairs them with a fully licensed volunteer driver.

The program is dedicated to improving road safety by helping young people become safe, confident drivers. By providing structured guidance and practice, it aims to reduce the risk of accidents and contribute to lowering Victoria's road toll. Additionally, the program offers young people the chance to interact with positive adult role models, gain confidence, and move towards social independence.

This year the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN (CCLLEN) and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) partnered with Rushworth P-12 College, Rochester Secondary College and St Augustine's College to launch the TAC L2P Learner Driver in-school programs. This exciting initiative offers local students the opportunity to gain the essential driving experience they need to safely navigate the roads. The program provides access to trained volunteer driving mentors, up to seven free driving lessons and vehicle use, ensuring that participants not only learn to drive but also gain confidence and practical skills that are essential for their future success in a safe and supported environment.

The Rochester SES, Lockington/Elmore/Rochester Community Bank, Campaspe Shire Council Flood Recovery and Echuca Auto Group provided CCLLEN with funding towards the purchase of a

new L2P vehicle based in Rochester. This funding has made it possible for the TAC L2P Program to provide a reliable and well-maintained vehicle for learners in Rochester and surrounding areas, further enhancing the program's reach and impact. Additionally, this vehicle will help reduce waiting times for learners, ensuring they have more opportunities to practice and gain confidence behind the wheel. The support from these organisations not only benefits individual learners but also contributes to overall road safety in the community by producing more skilled and responsible drivers. This initiative exemplifies the positive outcomes that can be achieved through community collaboration and investment.

Throughout 2024, a number of mentors worked with more than one learner, which has enabled the program to meet its target, resulting in a target increase from the Department of Transport from 28 to 30 active learners per month. This collaborative effort not only maximised the use of available resources but also fostered stronger mentor-learner

relationships, enhancing the overall learning experience. The dedication and flexibility of the mentors has been instrumental in achieving these goals, demonstrating the program's commitment to supporting learner drivers and contributing to safer roads in the community.

This success highlights the importance of mentor involvement and the positive impact it has on the program's growth and effectiveness.

Echuca L2P Mentor, Terry James, received the "Best Supporting Mentor 2024" award from the Department of Transport in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the program. Thanks to Terry's unwavering support and encouragement, one of his learner's successfully secured employment at Echuca Toyota and now services the Echuca L2P Toyota Yaris. Terry's dedication not only helped this learner achieve a

significant career milestone but also strengthened the community by fostering skilled and confident drivers. His commitment exemplifies the profound impact mentors can have on their learner's lives and the broader community.



VIC VICE

VIC VICE is a cutting-edge virtual reality platform that offers students in Victorian classrooms a chance to experience various workplaces in a fully immersive, interactive and multi-sensory way.

By slipping on a headset, students embark on an immersive journey through a virtual world filled with both 360-degree videos of different industries and digital simulations of real-life workplace activities. Students are transported to the heart of real-life industries where they can witness the 'on the job' action as it unfolds.

Within each video, students can actively engage with their virtual



surroundings, immersing themselves in the experience through virtual touchpoints and interactions.

Thanks to the feeling of presence VR provides, students can learn about their potential future by living it. In a multi-sensory experience, it's easy to forget that VR experiences aren't real.

As students look around a complete virtual replica of different career 'worlds', the visceral reactions to what they are experiencing are designed to build a sense of inspiration throughout their exploration.

Aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, VIC VICE supports career awareness and aspiration, unlocking new experiences and opportunities for students. The VR platform also considers the findings of the Firth Review and is designed to engage students in their middle years. With 360-degree video and video-game style simulations, VIC VICE provides a more accessible alternative to traditional work experience and industry tours and is a safer option during times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Industry exposure is important for young people to make informed choices about their subjects and pathways. It can, however, be difficult for many young people to get. This can be because employers do not have the resources to provide experiences to all young people in the region or young people live a long way away from workplaces of interest. Virtual Reality solves these problems.

VIC VICE is a free, age appropriate, non-gendered, accessible addition to careers education, available to every school in Victoria.

ST MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE, SWAN HILL WINS MURRAY RIVER CULINARY CHALLENGE

VET Hospitality students Grace Gibson and Mawa Abitama proudly brought home the prestigious Murray River Culinary Challenge trophy.

This beautifully crafted trophy, made from polished red gum sourced from the Koondrook Forest, symbolises the recognition of their exceptional culinary skills and dedication.

The competition saw fierce participation from students across several schools, including Echuca College, St Mary MacKillop College in Swan Hill, St Anne's College in Kialla, and Shepparton ACE Secondary College. These talented students advanced through various stages to reach the Grand Final, which was held at Bendigo TAFE's Echuca Campus on September 9.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge is a rigorous three-tiered competition that showcases the culinary talents of students. The journey begins at the school level, where students compete individually to secure a spot in the Regional Final. The highest scoring team from this round advance to the Grand Final. As the competition progresses, the complexity of the menus increases, allowing students to demonstrate the full range of skills they have acquired during their hospitality training. Each level of the competition is carefully designed to challenge the students and push their culinary boundaries, ensuring they can exhibit their creativity, technical abilities, and knowledge.

The structured approach not only highlights the student's dedication and hard work but also provides them with invaluable experience and exposure to high-pressure culinary environments. The Murray River Culinary Challenge is a testament to the exceptional talent and potential of young chefs in the region, fostering a spirit of excellence and passion for the culinary arts.

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 with 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 the skills learnt during their hospitality training.

The teams arrived in well-presented uniforms, each equipped with meticulously written workflow plans. They had 2.5 hours to prepare, cook and present a three-course menu: maple-roasted pumpkin soup with harissa oil and crispy croutons as entree, herb-crusted lamb rack with olive oil mash, buttered spring vegetables and red wine jus as the main course, and spiced cranberry poached pears as the dessert. Industry judges eagerly awaited the opportunity to evaluate the dishes, focussing on consistency and flavour. They were thoroughly impressed by the student's creative presentations.

A big thank you to our Industry judges; Braydon Maloney - Tongala Hotel Motel, Rebecca Hart - Boo's Place Cafe & Provedore and George Santos - Moama Bowling Club, for their passion and commitment to the hospitality industry and our young people. 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.

SCHOOL FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

The CCLLEN strives to foster collaboration between schools and businesses.



There are numerous ways for businesses to become 'School Friendly'. We aim to acknowledge those already engaged with schools and motivate more businesses to get involved.

School Friendly Businesses play a vital role in supporting their communities and enhancing educational transition outcomes for young people through a community-wide approach.

In the CCLLEN region, 306 businesses and 33 schools are currently participating. These businesses engage in activities such as mock interviews, career events, work placements, and sponsorships. Additionally, they receive School Friendly Business calendars biannually.

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Students across our schools were gearing up for their upcoming Mock Interviews.

They must submit a resume and application letter in response to a job advertisement and then undergo an interview conducted by a local business or community member. Feedback is an integral part of this process and is highly valuable.

To better prepare, students engage in a highly interactive 75-minute session that provides tips on resume and application letter writing. A challenging group activity, where they build a tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows, helps them practice employability skills such as teamwork and problem solving.

Students pair up to practice potential interview questions and learn the importance of making a good first impression. A workbook has been created for the students, filled with hints, tips, checklists, and tasks to help them reflect on their newly acquired skills.



YOUTH EXPO

On 12 September, over 1100 Year 7-10 students from Echuca College, Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, Rochester Secondary College and St Joseph's College Echuca attended the Echuca Moama Youth Expo with over 40 stalls on display.



A diverse array of social groups, service providers, sporting clubs, businesses, organisations, health services and volunteering groups were showcased.

The expo was a joint effort by CCLLEN, Campaspe Shire Council, and participating schools, funded by the Victorian government's FReeZA and Youth Fest programs.

It provided a platform for local organisations, community groups, and clubs to present opportunities for young people to engage with their community or join supportive group environments. Exhibits included hobbies and interests like martial arts, fitness, and dance, as well as volunteer groups such as the CFA and the library.

A student committee, with representatives from each attending school, played a key role in organising the event. They contributed ideas for exhibits, competitions, and activities, meeting weekly in the lead up to the event. The schools took turns hosting these meetings, fostering collaboration among the student committee members.

The expo aims to connect young people with local sports, hobbies, activities, clubs, services, and volunteering groups.

In addition to the exhibits, the expo featured interactive workshop demonstrations, allowing attendees to try out new activities and learn more about the opportunities available to them. These hands-on experiences were designed to inspire and motivate young people to explore their interests and get involved in their community.

Overall, the expo was a vibrant and dynamic event that successfully brought together a wide range of community resources, offering young people a unique opportunity to discover new interests, make connections, and become more involved in their local community.

Some feedback received from the students:

"There are lots of opportunities for young people."

"That there are so many youth programs around our area."

"It is ok to ask for help as there are so many organisations willing to accommodate you."

"That there are many services to help the community."

YOUTH TAKE OVER – A DOUBLE TRIUMPH

The Youth Take Over program is a dynamic, group-based work experience initiative, brokered and delivered by the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN in partnership with local industries.



Vivid and St Augustine's College, Kyabram: Collaborating to Engage, Empower, and Educate

In 2024, twenty-two Vocational Major students from St Augustine's College in Kyabram took on the challenge of raising awareness about Vivid within the Kyabram community. As part of their Vocational Major study outcomes, the students were tasked with creating promotional materials, which included conducting a community survey. The results of this survey were analysed and presented by the students as recommendations to Vivid.

Of these students, six participated in a group-based work experience program, where they shadowed the Vivid workforce every Tuesday.

In early May, a BBQ meet-and-greet event was held at the Kyabram Vivid site, allowing students and staff to connect. The following week, the students visited the Echuca Vivid site to explore a range of services, including car washing, laundry, and cleaning operations.

Later that month, Vivid clients visited St Augustine's College to observe students working on their wood and metal projects.

The students also engaged with local media

outlets, such as EM/FM radio, the Kyabram Free Press, and the Riverine Herald, to learn how to write and distribute media releases, keeping the community informed about the project's progress. The program culminated in a successful launch event at the end of June, celebrating the incredible journey shared by students and Vivid clients throughout the 10-week project.

Cohuna District Hospital and Cohuna Secondary College: Growing Future Healthcare Heroes

Students from Cohuna Secondary College took part in a forward-thinking 9-week project aimed at addressing a crucial local issue: recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in Cohuna. In collaboration with Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and the Cohuna District Hospital, the initiative offered students valuable hands-on experience and widened the students' insights into the many level entry positions in the healthcare field.

During the project, students shadowed hospital staff, gaining firsthand knowledge of various roles, career pathways, and the daily operations of the hospital.

The project reached its pinnacle with a successful launch event held at the North

District Community Health Centre, which drew considerable community support. Local councillors, school leadership, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN members, and community members from both Cohuna and Kerang attended the event to celebrate the students' achievements and the impact of their work.

Throughout the Youth Take Over programs, students engaged in a variety of enriching activities:

Workplace Shadowing: Students had the chance to shadow industry professionals, gaining firsthand insights into various roles, career pathways, daily operations and services at Vivid and the Cohuna District Hospital sites. This experience provided them with a deeper understanding of the disability and healthcare sectors.

Vocational Major studies outcomes: As part of their studies, students interviewed staff about their career journeys and created brochures and promotional materials showcasing job opportunities. This allowed them to apply their learning in a practical context and develop valuable communication skills.

Careers Sessions: All students participated in dedicated career sessions supported by the Skills and Jobs Centre - Bendigo TAFE, and the HR Officers from within the two industries. These sessions offered valuable guidance on career



opportunities within the disability and healthcare fields, helping students to explore the potential career paths and make informed decisions about their futures.

Community Engagement: To gauge peer awareness of healthcare options, students from Cohuna Secondary

College conducted a survey among their fellow students. The findings were shared with Cohuna District Hospital to support future recruitment strategies, demonstrating the student's ability to contribute meaningfully to their community. These activities not only provided students with practical experience and career insights but also fostered a sense of community engagement and collaboration.

The collaborative nature of these projects highlights the immense value of community engagement in education. By involving students in real-world initiatives, these projects provide practical experience and hands-on learning opportunities. Students not only gain valuable insights into their potential career paths but also contribute to addressing significant local issues. Overall, the projects not only provided students with practical experience but also emphasized the vital role of community in education. They demonstrated how educational institutions and local communities can work together to address important issues and create meaningful learning experiences for students.



SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS REFORM - VET TRANSPORT FUND AND VET CLUSTER

The VET Transport Fund assists state government's secondary schools to provide their students with access to Vocational Education and Training Delivered to Secondary School Students (VDSS) programs.

The funding addresses barriers to access by providing schools with travel solutions that are coordinated and fit-for-purpose to support increased VDSS access and greater choice for senior secondary students.

The LLEN was identified as the most appropriate choice to coordinate this funding, given our strong connection with our schools.

Through a process of place-based-planning with schools, the Department identified specific clusters of schools to pilot the program. These schools had barriers to accessing VDSS that could be overcome with additional transport support. The transport fund enables the LLEN to offer additional transport support to overcome these barriers.

The transport fund can be used for:

- Hiring a bus from a transport company
- Hiring a taxi if no other suitable travel options are viable
- Using a school bus and paying for fuel and/or a driver
- A school staff member driving a car owned by the staff member or by the school
- Compensating a parent for fuel when using a vehicle owned by a parent
- Subsidising a student for public transport costs

- Paying for a WWCC for adult on transport to supervise children
- Catholic/Independent schools that fall on the route of funded transport
- Transporting students from a VET provider back to school or central location
- Transporting ES staff to accompany students on transport where required
- Transporting a VET trainer to students at a given location (school, RTO etc.)

The role of the LLEN:

- Liaise with schools/JSPMs and clusters to determine transport solutions
- Utilise the funding to implement transport solutions (e.g. organise a bus)
- Work with transport operators
- Provide reporting information
- Where required, request additional funding to fund transport solutions beyond a cluster's capped amount
- Populate their cluster/s Delivery Model for planning transport solutions

The LLEN provided sponsorship for VET Cluster Shirts for first year students. The shirts create a sense of inclusivity and are a visual marker of belonging to the VET Cluster group, regardless of which school the student is from and contributes to a feel of cohesion within the group.



VET CHAMPIONS

The VET Champions initiative showcases high-achieving Victorians who have risen to success through a vocational education and training (VET) pathway. The Champions are available for schools and LLENs to book to speak at careers events.

The Department of Education asked LLENs to nominate potential Champions for the program.

CCLLEN nominated Kelly Shotton of Foodmach as a VET Champion and she was one of the first to be announced by Education Minister James Merlino. Kelly immediately received requests to speak at events.

CCLLEN also nominated Jack Trewick, farming apprentice at Cramlington Park and he was in the second group of Champions announced. Kelly and Jack already have experience talking to students for Beacon and CCLLEN, and were filmed for the Careers Video Showcase. Jack is a two-time winner of School Based Apprentice of the Year in our VET Awards of 2017 and 2018.



Both Kelly and Jack are featured on the VET Champions website at <https://www.vic.gov.au/vet-champions>.



MENTAL HEALTH



CCLLEN is an active member of the Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network.

The Network created an information sheet on Keeping Mentally Well. CCLLEN distributed this to schools for use in staff rooms and when talking to families.

CCLLEN is a member of the Executive Group for the Campaspe Schools and Agencies Wellbeing Network. The network held face to face meetings and via regular emails to members, provided information on resources and professional development opportunities.



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 maintains and regularly adds to a directory of services that is hyper-linked to the Continuum of Need mapping tool.

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School has mapped all of their students using the tool, and found it very helpful in identifying issues and prioritising assistance.

Other schools are investigating using the tool, and requesting assistance with the process. CCLLEN and Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School provided further information and advice. School Focused Youth Service offered funding to cover teacher release to work on mapping students.



ECHUCA MOAMA BEACON FOUNDATION

We've had an exciting year of growth and achievement filled with events and programs, thanks to the incredible support from our local business community, ensuring the success of the Real Futures Program for our students and schools.

21 Leaders were selected to represent the five Beacon schools, with seven year 9 students from Echuca College, six year 10 students from St Joseph's College, two from Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, two from Australian Christian College and four year 9 students from Moama Anglican Grammar.

Leadership Development Day – 16 February

Our Leadership Day, sponsored by Bendigo TAFE Echuca Campuses Kickham's Mill, focuses on building leadership, team-building and preparing our new leaders for their roles as ambassadors for their schools and Beacon. The day included various activities to develop communication and teamwork skills.

Leaders participated in ice-breakers, interactive

workshops, and public speaking sessions. Their enthusiasm and commitment were evident as they engaged in all activities and supported each other. Facilitators and school coordinators were impressed with their efforts, especially in public speaking.

The day concluded with a reflection session, leaving everyone confident in the capabilities of our new leaders and excited for the year ahead.

Community Events

Business Breakfast – 21 March

Our first community event of the year, the Business Breakfast, was hosted by the Beacon leaders at Radcliffe's Restaurant on Thursday 21 March.



Beacon Leaders



Beacon Business Breakfast

Mia Arthurson, one of the 2023 leaders spoke on her journey last year as a Beacon Leader, she explained how being a leader has benefitted her personally with developed leadership skills, confidence and helping to shape her future career pathway. She urged this year's leaders to embrace their roles and have a go at everything to make the most of the experience. Mia impressed the room with her confident and professional delivery of her speech.

Our leaders were introduced to the business community and presented with their official Beacon Badges by Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos and Beacon Board Chair Sue Turner. This year they were also presented with a Beacon jacket for them to keep and wear at Beacon Events. It will help them to be identifiable as our Beacon Ambassadors and role models for their peers. Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos also spoke to the room, congratulating leaders on their selection as a Beacon Ambassador and commending our community on their support and collaboration with schools to support their career pathways.

Thank you to everyone who attended and assisted our program this year - we appreciate you!



Beacon Business Breakfast



Leadership Day

Community Event: Echuca Sweat vs Steam Rally

Our Beacon leaders had the fantastic opportunity to support the Echuca Sweat vs Steam Rally. They helped with various tasks before the event and on the day itself, including marshalling, cheering on runners, offering encouraging words, and manning the aid station. This event not only allowed our leaders to engage with the community but also supported a wonderful cause. Their enthusiasm and dedication were truly inspiring!

Real Futures Program

Careers Expo

The Careers Expo, our first combined school event and by far the biggest Beacon Foundation event of the year. The expo aims to help students in the Real Futures program explore future career opportunities. Over 500 students attended the event at Rich River Golf Club, participating in workshops led by professionals from 55, predominantly local industries, ranging from the Automotive to Zoology.

This unique nature of the event provides an excellent opportunity for our young people to network and learn about many career options and pathways in one place. We are grateful to the over 100 individuals who volunteered their time, energy, and passion to present at the expo.

A special thank you to the Rich River Golf Club for hosting us and making this event possible!

Interview Techniques

In partnership with Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, we provided training to Year 9 and 10 students across all five Beacon schools. This interactive training prepared students for the world of work and their Mock Interviews.

Mock Interviews

A key component of the Real Futures program, Mock Interviews were held throughout the year. Beacon Leaders ensured everything ran smoothly. Students received valuable feedback and left feeling more confident. Our volunteer interviewers from the business community provided real-world experience, and we always welcome new interviewers.



Beacon Careers Expo



Pathways Pledge Ceremony

Pathways Pledge Ceremony

Held at EchUCA Twin Rivers Specialist School on August 13, the Pathways Pledge Ceremony saw over 500 attendees. Keynote speaker Noah Downie shared his career journey and the reasons behind his career moves. This was followed by a panel of speakers including Jack Trewick, a VET champion and passionate farmer; Bree Forge, a young business owner challenging gender role by running a successful painting company in a traditionally male-dominated industry; and Jayden Howe from headspace EchUCA, who offered advice on following one's passions. Beacon leaders, the Beacon board, sponsors, and supporters signed the community pledge board, signifying students' commitment to further education, training, and employment after school, as well as

the community's commitment to supporting our young people in achieving these goals. Our keynote speaker, Jason McCurry, shared his inspiring journey from growing up in Rochester to pursuing higher education in Melbourne, despite facing challenges with Tourette's Syndrome and OCD. He now serves as the Senior Youth Programs Coordinator at Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA), a role close to his heart.



AGM

Board symbolises this commitment, with the boards prominently displayed in each school for all to see.

The Pathways Pledge signifies a public commitment from students to embrace their future opportunities with an open mind regarding career pathways. Community members are encouraged to pledge their support in guiding our youth on their journey. Signing the Pledge

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