



## **NMLLEN NEWSLETTER – TERM 4, 2021 Highlights**

### **DET Early Childhood Education and Care Presentation**

Northern Mallee LLEN in collaboration with Department of Education and Training (DET) Early Childhood Education and Care organised a presentation for students from local schools who are interested in building their careers in the Early Education Industry. The presentation was held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and was led by Lisa Smyth and Grace Stevens from Department of Education and Training together with Country Way Early Learning Owner/Director – Tarlee Dowsley

The Presentation covered Early Childhood industry pathways, information on Government funding for further studies into Early Childhood careers, the presenter's individual career pathways and a round of QnA.

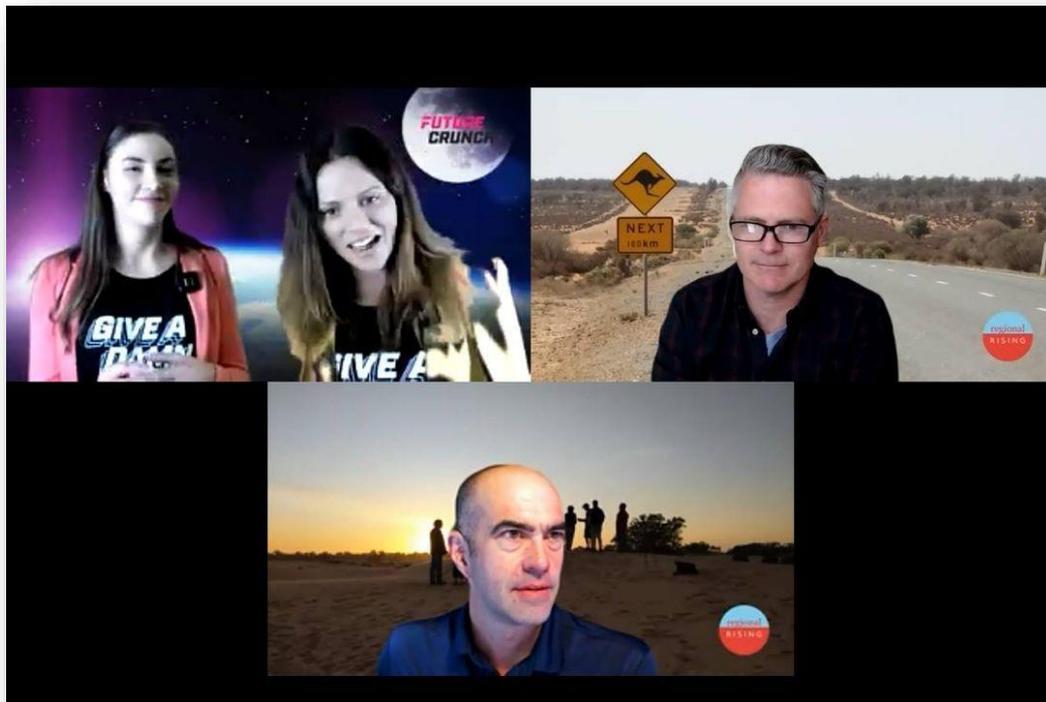
In attendance were, year 11 VET Community Services Mildura Senior College students along with their teacher Tess Daniele that were interested in a career pathway into early childhood. The students found the presentation very informative and engaging.



## STEM4Sunraysia 2021

**STEM4Sunraysia** is a partnership between Northern Mallee LLEN, SuniTAFE, Skills and Jobs Centre, Mildura Regional Development and Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee. Due to COVID 19 related restrictions, the STEM4Sunraysia competition had to be made adaptable in its format for schools, businesses, facilitators, guest speakers and the organising committee. Hence, a hybrid model was adopted where four local businesses were filmed earlier this year highlighting their real-world problems with the idea of students using STEM related technology to provide solutions for the businesses. The participating businesses - Cooke Industries, Christie Centre Inc.- GrowAbility Nursery, SuniTAFE Smart Farm, and Mildura Paddle Steamers presented unique problems related to Manufacturing, Irrigation, Marketing and Engineering respectively.

A virtual event was organised on November 10, 2021, facilitated by Leighton Wells and Paul Dillion from Regional Rising where 65 students from 6 secondary schools engaged and watched the 3-minute industry videos and asked relevant questions to gain knowledge of the four problems before watching the guest presenters Rebecca Tapp and Melissa Neighbour from Future Crunch deliver on the topic of ADAPTABILITY Quotient.



Pic Above L to R: Melissa Neighbour and Rebecca Tapp from Future Crunch. Paul Dillion and Leighton Wells from Regional Rising.

Between Nov 11 and November 28, students continued to work in groups with support from their school STEM teachers and received guidance from mentors as required through online mentorship sessions facilitated by Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (NMLLEN). The mentor panel included Cr. Jason Modica (MRCC), Shane Hatchard, CEO- (Redstar Media), Jeremy Gidding- Regional Manager Irrigation – Mallee, Biosecurity and Agriculture Service, (Agriculture Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions) and Dean Matulick, Managing Director (DMW Engineering).

The students prepared their pitch presentations in a 6-minute video that was presented to the judging panel prior to the virtual awards presentation on December 1, 2021. The judging committee comprised of Nicole Byrnes (Project Leader, Horticulture Innovation, SuniTAFE Smart Farm), Justin Nicholas, General Manager (Cooke Industries), Samantha Jetson, Business Development Officer, (Christie Centre Inc.), Ashton McKenzie, Marketing Manager (Mildura Paddle Steamers), Vanessa Hall-Smart Cities Project Officer (MRCC), and Brett Millington, CEO, (Mildura Regional Development).

On Wednesday, December 1, Regional Rising returned to facilitate the STEM4Sunraysia once again in an online event. The presentations submitted by Irymple Secondary College, Red Cliffs Secondary College, Chaffey Secondary College and St. Joseph's College were shared with all the participants and feedback from the judges was discussed. It will be an understatement to say that the 2021 STEM4Sunraysia participants set a new benchmark and left the judges super impressed. The event came to a wrap with Chaffey Secondary College being selected for making the winning pitch at the '2021 STEM4Sunraysia' event.

The '2021 STEM4Sunraysia' original format had planned participation from 80 students from 12 secondary schools, however, with the ongoing COVID-19 related disruptions, it was a challenge for all the schools to participate. The STEM4Sunraysia will be back in 2022 next year and will hopefully see participation from more schools as the organising committee continues to adapt to changes in the program format.

[Watch the 2021 STEM4Sunraysia Teaser here](#)



Pic above: Year 9 2021 STEM4Sunraysia participants from Chaffey Secondary College presented the winning solution for Mildura Paddle Steamers  
Image Credit: Chaffey Secondary College



Pic above: Year 9 2021 STEM4Sunraysia participants from Red Cliffs Secondary College presented a very impressive solution for Cooke Industries- Manufacturing problem.  
Image Credit: Red Cliffs Secondary College



Pic above: Year 9 2021 STEM4Sunraysia participants from St. Joseph's Secondary College presented a very impressive solution for SuniTAFE SmartFARM Marketing problem.  
Image Credit: St. Joseph's Secondary College

## Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) VETDSS Student Excellence Awards

Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) and Northern Mallee LLEN started the process of conducting the virtual award interviews for Sunraysia Careers Network (SCN) 2021 VETDSS Excellence Awards for students undertaking the VET Subjects in early October. The interview panel comprised of DET representatives, Business Owners, and Industry experts. The virtual award interviews were conducted over the three days with students pursuing a range of VET Subjects across schools in Sunraysia.



Pictured: Ange Myers, Fairways Bistro and Natika Mitselburg, NMLLEN Project Officer using zoom to discuss students VETDSS nominations



Pic: Vanessa Hall, MRCC, Smart Cities Project Officer and Dale Harvey, NMLLEN, SWL Coordinator.



Pic: Dale Harvey and Mark Stevens doing the Building & Construction interviews.

The Sunraysia Careers Network capably led by Nikki Clisby-Weir of Trinity Lutheran College and the VETDSS Awards coordinator Adele Kennedy from St Joseph's College Mildura along with the VETDSS awards committee from across Sunraysia secondary schools facilitated the virtual 2021 VETDSS awards night on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

David Browne, Principal, Red Cliffs Secondary College was the Emcee for the night presenting the category nominees and VETDSS award winners in the students chosen vocational education training subject. SuniTAFE guest speaker Scott Hopkins provided students and parents with an understanding of the benefits of and the careers available for students following a vocational education training pathway. SuniTAFE, NMLLEN and SMGT were the major sponsors of the award and believe strongly in the promotion of vocational education training pathways leading to employment and or higher education and training opportunities.

**Participating Schools:**

- Coomealla High School
- Irymple Secondary College
- Merbein P-10 College
- Mildura Christian College
- Mildura Senior College
- Ouyen P-12 College
- Red Cliffs Secondary College
- Trinity Lutheran College
- St. Joseph's College Mildura

**Judges Panel:**

- Ben Evans, Apprenticeship Coordinator, Haeusler's
- Vanessa Hall, Smart Cities, Project officer, MRCC

Mark Stevens, Director, Glendah Constructions  
Helen Martin, Student Support Services Branch Manager, Mallee, DET  
Dean Umback, Parks and Garden Coordinator, MRCC  
Matthew McWilliams, Director, Interlink Sprayers  
Bethany Simpson, Team Leader, Sunraysia Residential Services Inc.  
Kylie Mackay, Branch Manager, SMGT  
Andrew Myers, Owner/ Manager, Fairways Bistro  
Rebecca Burgess, Early Childhood Performance and Planning Advisor, DET  
Rebekah Sleep, Teacher/ Coordinator, SuniTAFE  
Melissa Pain, Owner/ Personal Trainer, Youfit  
Iwan and Andrea Soebardi, Owner/ Manager/ Musician Artist, Soebardi Creative  
Gena Grant, Regional Manager, Victorian Chamber of Commerce  
Marissa Burrows, Owner/ Manager, Mildura Showcase Jewellers  
Julie Riley, Behavioural Practitioner, Sunraysia Residential Services Inc.  
Anne Mansell, CEO, Dried Fruits Australia and NMLLEN Chair  
Will Trimble, Skills Pathway Manager, Mallee, DET

### **Award Winners:**

Aimee Pearce, Red Cliffs Secondary, Student of the Year  
Laura Davidson, Mildura Senior College, Student of the Year Runner up  
Lachlan Vernon, Mildura Senior College, Automotive  
Aimee Pearce, Red Cliffs Secondary, Allied Health  
Lily Farmer, Trinity Lutheran College, Applied Fashion  
Tess Palamara, Mildura Senior College, Beauty/Hairdressing  
Isabella Allomes, Mildura Senior College, Community Service  
Ethan Heywood, Mildura Senior College, Creative and Digital Media  
Jack Bithell, Mildura Senior College, Engineering  
Maya Scott, St Joseph's College, Fitness  
Claudia Allen, Mildura Senior College, Hospitality  
Hamayun Nasirie, Red Cliffs SC, Information, Digital Media and Technology  
Brandon Kitt, Mildura Senior College, Music  
Matthew Madio, St Joseph's College, Plumbing  
Emily Barling, Mildura Senior College, Retail  
Nunzio Tabacco, St Joseph's College, Rural Operations  
Antonio Palamara, Merbein P10, Wood Trades  
Ryley Whitelegg, St Joseph's College, SBAT Year 1  
Laura Davidson, Mildura Senior College, SBAT Year 2  
Rory Hooper, St Joseph's College, VCAL Senior  
Alannah Woodhart, Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, VCAL Intermediate  
Lucy Cirillo, St Joseph's College, VCAL Foundation

[Watch the SCN VETDSS Awards Teaser](#)

### **Job Readiness -Job Preparation:**

NMLLEN's SWL Coordinator Dale Harvey conducted an online presentation on Job Readiness -Job Preparation and Interview on October 19, 2021 with Irymple SC Year 10 via Webex. The Job Readiness Session provided information and examples for students and school representatives on how to be job ready. Special thanks to the guest speaker Kylie MacKay, SMGT Branch Manager and the teachers and students in attendance



### **Wet Trades: 'Which One Are You' Workshops**

**Wet Trades: 'Which One Are You'** Painter and Decorator was successfully held with guest presentations and a workshop, offered to Year 11 and 12 VCE, VCAL and VET students at Mildura Senior College on 27th October 2021 as part of the College, school-employer engagement program. The objective of the WET Trade initiative- Painting and Decorating was to help students to consider painting and decorating as a transitional pathway to a career through an apprenticeship.

The event format included introduction and technical display and display of painting methods by Robert Dean, R Dean Painting Services (Business Owner and Qualified Painter and Decorator). Robert demonstrated techniques such as how to do internal paint work using the paint brush, getting the fluff off the rollers, and using different products like under coat paint and fillers. Robert also shared information on starting career as an apprentice, qualified tradesperson, and business owner in the field.



**Wet Trades: 'Which One Are You' - Tiler** was successfully held with guest presentations and a workshop offered to Year 11 and 12 VCE, VCAL and VET students at Mildura Senior College as part of the College, school-employer engagement program on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021.



The event comprised a workshop on tiling technical skills from a trade qualified local employer assisted by an apprentice in the trade.

The objective of the workshop was to help students in attendance to consider tiling as a transitional pathway to a career through an apprenticeship.

Pic left: David Berry, David Berry Tiling (Business Owner and Qualified Tiler)



The event format included introduction and technical display and display of internal tile work by David Berry, David Berry Tiling (Business Owner and Qualified Tiler). David also shared information on starting career as an apprentice, qualified tradesperson, and business owner in the field. David was assisted by Brayden McGregor SBAT (1st Year Apprentice Tiler). The workshop was followed by a Presentation from Dale Harvey, NMLLEN SWL Coordinator and Natika Mitselburg, (NMLLEN Project Officer) on Australian Apprenticeship Pathway Information that provided resources and information on becoming an Australian Apprentice Tiler.

Pic left: Brayden McGregor SBAT (1st Year Apprentice Tiler)



Education  
and Training



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